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# PFC - California

## I. Introduction to Riparian Areas and PFC

# Keeping Water on the Land

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A scenic landscape photograph showing a wide river or lake in the foreground, with a forested shoreline and distant mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The image is framed by a thick blue border.

**Extended Streamflows**

**Groundwater Recharge**

**Filtering Effects**

**Temperature Regulation**

# Riparian Areas Reflect Health of the Watershed

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- ◆ Small percentage of landscape, but many benefits
- ◆ First features to show damage from improper management
- ◆ Collaborative approaches are needed:
  - Significant portion of public lands below potential
  - Riparian areas pass through multiple ownerships

# Effective Riparian Management

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- ◆ Considers the entire drainage area
- ◆ Involves all potentially impacted individuals and interests
- ◆ Based on a common vision, common goals, and common sense
- ◆ Facilitates communication and decisionmaking by using a common vocabulary and generally accepted methods of evaluation



# **Effective Riparian Management**

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- ◆ **Common Goals, Objectives, Management Direction, and... Common Sense**
- ◆ **Common Vocabulary and Definitions**
- ◆ **Common Methods for Evaluating Health and Condition**
- ◆ **High Probability for Positive Change At Reasonable Investment**
- ◆ **Encourage Voluntary Restoration of Private Lands**

# Effective Riparian Management

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- ◆ Resolution At The Ground Level By Those Most Affected
- ◆ Interdisciplinary Expertise and Local Interest
- ◆ Results

# Effective Riparian Management

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- ◆ Utilizes an interdisciplinary approach
- ◆ Practices are technically sound, and economically and environmentally feasible/defensible
- ◆ Continues to monitor conditions and reevaluates goals and strategies in light of changes

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# **Texas Creek, Colorado**

September 1976

# Texas Creek, Colorado

## September 1976

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Nonfunctional

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# **Texas Creek, Colorado**

June, 1978

# Texas Creek, Colorado

## June 1978

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Functioning-At-Risk



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# **Texas Creek, Colorado**

October, 1978

# Texas Creek, Colorado

## October 1978

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Properly Functioning

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# **Texas Creek, Colorado**

July, 1987

# Texas Creek, Colorado

## July 1987

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Properly Functioning

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**P**roper  
**F**unctioning  
**C**ondition



# Who developed the PFC methodology?

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- ◆ In 1996, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service formally launched their “Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management” initiative;
- ◆ The USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service was identified as a “principle partner” in the initial effort.



# **“Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management”**

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## **Key Components of the Initiative are:**

- ◆ Formation of a National Riparian Service Team (Prineville, OR);
- ◆ Formation of a network of riparian coordinators to facilitate coordination and technology transfer;
- ◆ An aggressive PFC training program



# Cooperating Agencies in California

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- ◆ **Bureau of Land Management**
- ◆ **USDA Forest Service**
- ◆ **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- ◆ **University of California**
- ◆ **University of California Cooperative Extension**

# **Who else has been involved in PFC in California?**

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- ◆ **Local CRMP Groups (e.g. Scott River, Panoche-Silver Creek, Pine Creek)**
- ◆ **Resource Conservation Districts**
- ◆ **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
- ◆ **California Resources Agency**
- ◆ **California Native Plant Society**
- ◆ **California Cattlemens Association**

# PFC training in California

◆ **Since 1997, approx. 18 training sessions have been conducted:**

- National Forest (Los Padres, Eldorado, Cleveland, Sequoia, etc.)
- Calveras Big Trees SP
- CRMPs (Scott River, Arroyo Pasajaro, Modoc/Warner Mtns)
- NRCS/RCD/UCCE (Quincy, Willows, Jamestown, San Andreas)
- Others (UC Davis)

# PFC References

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- ◆ **TR 1737-9: Riparian Area Management - Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition (BLM, 1993)**
- ◆ **TR 1737-11: Riparian Area Management - Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas (BLM, 1994)**
- ◆ **TR 1737-15: Riparian Area Management- A User Guide to Assess Proper Functioning Condition and Supporting Science for Lotic Areas (BLM et al., 1998)**

# What is PFC?

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- ◆ A qualitative screening tool for assessing the condition of riparian-wetland areas.
- ◆ The term PFC is used to describe both:
  - A defined on the-ground condition of a riparian-wetland area..
  - The assessment process (methodology)

# What is PFC?

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- ◆ PFC on the ground condition refers to how well the physical processes are functioning
- ◆ PFC Assessment refers to a consistent approach for considering the following attributes and processes in order to determine the condition of riparian wetland areas -
  - Hydrology
  - Vegetation
  - Erosion/Deposition (soils)

# **PFC On The Ground -**

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- ◆ **PFC is a state of resiliency that will allow a riparian-wetland area to hold together during high flow (25 to 30 year) events with a high degree of reliability.**
- ◆ **This resiliency allows an area to then produce desired values, such as fish habitat, neotropical bird habitat, basketweaving, or forage, over time.**
- ◆ **Riparian areas that are not functioning properly cannot sustain these values**



# **The PFC Methodology -**

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- ◆ **Is a qualitative assessment based on quantitative science;**
- ◆ **Is intended for use by interdisciplinary teams with local on the ground experience.**
- ◆ **Quantitative techniques are encouraged in conjunction with the PFC assessment for:**
  - Individual calibration
  - Where answers are uncertain
  - Where experience is limited

# The PFC Methodology -

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- ◆ Utilizes a 17-point checklist to help guide teams through a systematic evaluation of the condition (overall health) of the riparian-wetland system.

# The PFC Methodology -

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- ◆ Relies on the collective professional expertise/judgement of the team to review results and assign a PFC rating:
  - **Functioning Properly**
  - **Functioning -At Risk**
    - ◆ Upward Trend
    - ◆ Downward Trend
  - **Nonfunctioning**

# PFC helps

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- ◆ **Determine potential and capability**
- ◆ **Define issues that need to be addressed**
- ◆ **Determine appropriate monitoring**
- ◆ **Select appropriate management practices**

# PFC Helps Determine

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- ◆ How well the physical processes are working
- ◆ How well the riparian-wetland area will withstand the energies of a 25 to 30 year event
- ◆ The system's basic ability to maintain and produce both physical and biological values

# PFC isn't

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- ◆ A replacement for biological inventory or monitoring protocols
- ◆ The only methodology for determining the health of riparian or aquatic components of the riparian-wetland area

# PFC does not equal

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- ◆ **Potential Natural Community (PNC)**
- ◆ **Desired Plant Community (DPC)**
- ◆ **Desired Future Condition (DFC)**



# **PFC does not replace existing**

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- ◆ **Forest Plan Standards or Guidelines**
- ◆ **BLM Land Use Plan Decisions**
- ◆ **Legal Requirements, e.g., ESA, CWA**

# **Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment**

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- ◆ **Common Vocabulary**
- ◆ **Communication Tool**
- ◆ **Planning Tool**

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# PFC - California

## II. Definition and Concepts

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# PFC

## Concepts and Definitions

# Wetland

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- ◆ Areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water
- ◆ Supports a prevalence of vegetation suited to saturated soils
- ◆ Includes marshes, shallow swamps, sloughs, lakeshores, wet meadows, springs, seeps, and riparian areas

# Riparian Area

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- ◆ **Transition between the aquatic (saturated) and upland areas**
- ◆ **Vegetation and physical (soil) characteristics reflect the influence of permanent surface or ground water**
- ◆ **Land along streams, ponds, marshes, springs, and seeps are examples**

# Riparian-Wetland Types

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## ◆ Lotic

- **Flowing water systems (streams)**
  - » **Defined channel**
  - » **Gradient**

## ◆ Lentic

- **Standing surface water**
  - » **Lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes**
- **Ground Water**
  - » **Seeps and springs**
  - » **Bogs and wet meadows**

# Standing Water (Lentic) Systems

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◆ Lakes

◆ Ponds

◆ Seeps

◆ Meadows



Mono Lake, Mono Co.



# Flowing Water (Lotic) Systems

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◆ Rivers

◆ Streams

◆ Springs



Sulfur Creek, Sonoma County

# Perennial Stream

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- ◆ Essentially flows year long
- ◆ Usually gains water from ground water
- ◆ Maintains base flow during dry periods

# Ephemeral Stream

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- ◆ A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation
- ◆ Channel is above the water table at all times

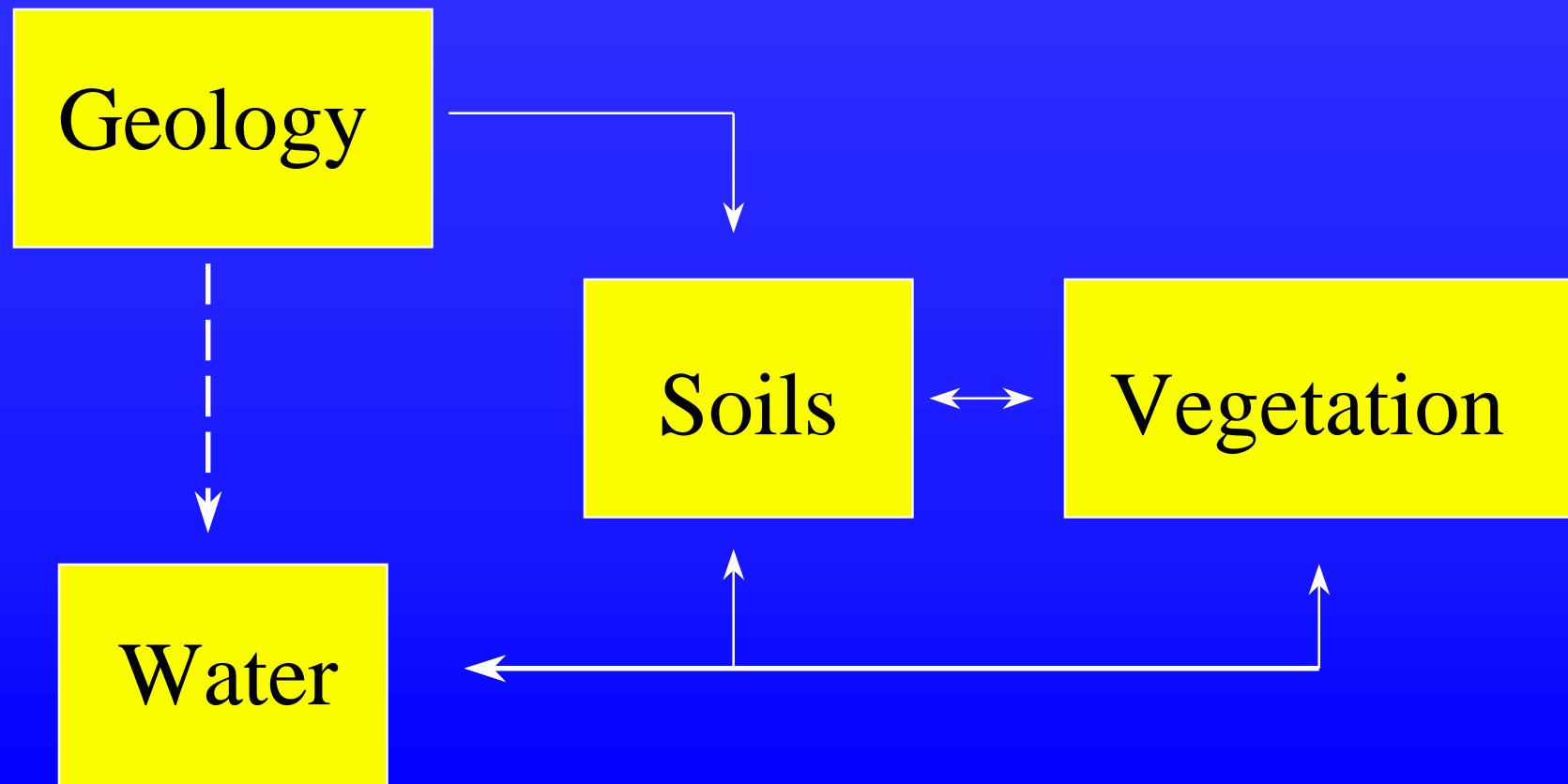
# **Intermittent or Seasonal Stream**

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- ◆ **Flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface sources such as melting snow**
- ◆ **Interrupted or discontinuous flow**

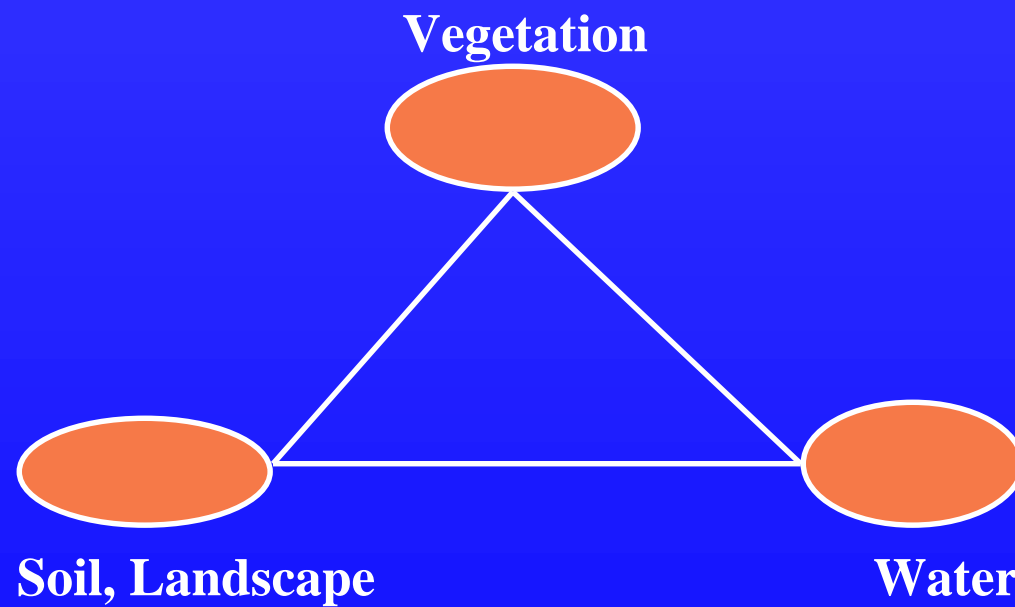
# Natural Riparian Resources

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# Natural Riparian Resources

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# Natural Riparian Resources

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- **Ecological Framework**
  - Potential
  - Capability
- **Geomorphic Framework**
  - Functioning Condition

# Potential

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- The highest ecological status a riparian-wetland area can attain given no political, social, or economical constraints.
- Often referred to as the Potential Natural Community.



# Capability

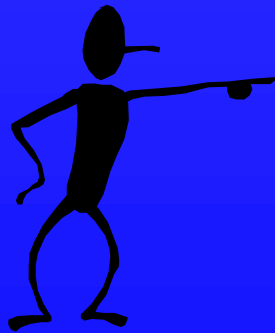
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- **The highest ecological status an area can attain given political, social, or economical constraints (limiting factors).**

# Proper Functioning Condition (Lotic)

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Adequate vegetation, landform or large woody debris present to:



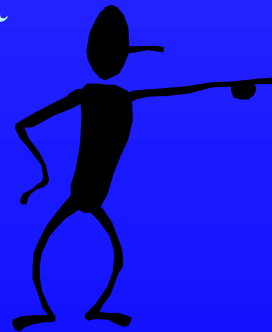
- \* Dissipate stream energy
- \* Reduce bank erosion
- \* Develop root masses that stabilize streambanks
- \* Aid floodplain development
- \* Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge
- \* Filter sediment

# Proper Functioning Condition (Lotic)

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- \* Dissipate stream energy
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- \* Aid floodplain development
- \* Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge
- \* Filter sediment



- \* **Greater channel stability**
- \* **Improved water quality**
- \* **Diverse ponding & channel characteristics**
- \* **Fish & wildlife habitat**
- \* **Greater biodiversity**

# Proper Functioning Condition (Lentic)

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Adequate vegetation, landform or debris present to:



- ◆ Dissipate energies associated with wind and wave action, and overland flow from adjacent sites
- ◆ Reduce shoreline erosion
- ◆ Develop root masses that stabilize islands and shoreline features
- ◆ Aid floodplain development
- ◆ Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge
- ◆ Filter sediment
- ◆ Restrict percolation

# Proper Functioning Condition (Lentic)

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Adequate vegetation, landform or woody debris present to:

- ◆ Dissipate ind/wave/overland flow energies
- ◆ Reduce shoreline erosion
- ◆ Develop root masses that stabilize islands and shoreline features
- ◆ Aid floodplain development
- ◆ Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge
- ◆ Filter sediment



- ◆ Greater shoreline stability
- ◆ Improved water quality
- ◆ Diverse ponding characteristics
- ◆ Fish & wildlife habitat incl. waterbird breeding
- ◆ Greater biodiversity

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# **Locke's Pond, Nevada**

Proper Functioning Condition

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# **Lacustrine Wetland, New Mexico**

Functional - At Risk

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# **Seep Wetland, Nevada**

Nonfunctional



# Functioning-at-Risk

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- ◆ **Riparian-wetland areas that are in functional condition, but an existing soil, water, or vegetation attribute is impacted which makes the area susceptible to degradation**

# Functioning-at-Risk

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## ◆ Examples

- Shallow rooted annuals
- Streambank damage
- Unhealthy woody vegetation

# Nonfunctional

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- ◆ Riparian-wetland areas missing one or more physical attributes and clearly are NOT providing adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to:

# Nonfunctional

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- ◆dissipate stream energy associated with high flows
- ◆reduce erosion
- ◆maintain water quality

# Nonfunctional

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- ◆ **Absence of important attributes**
  - **an active floodplain**
  - **stable streambanks**
  - **permeable soils due to excessive soil compaction**

# Unknown

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**Riparian-wetland areas where a lack of information precludes an objective determination of functioning condition.**

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# PFC - California

How Streams Work -  
Physical/Hydrology/Vegetation

# Attributes and Process List (lotic)

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## ◆ Hydrogeomorphic

- Ground water discharge
- Active floodplain
- Ground-water recharge
- Flood storage & release
- Flood modification
- Bankfull width
- Width/depth ratio
- Sinuosity
- Gradient
- Stream power
- Hydraulic controls
- Bed elevation

## ◆ Vegetation

- Community types
- Community type distribution
- Surface Density
- Canopy
- Recruitment/reproduction
- Survival
- Community dynamics & succession
- Sediment



# Attributes and Process List (lotic)

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## ◆ Erosion/Deposition

- Bank stability
- Bed stability (bed transport rate)
- Depositional features

## ◆ Soils

- Soil type
- Distribution of aerobic/anaerobic soils
- Capillarity
- Annual pattern of soil water states

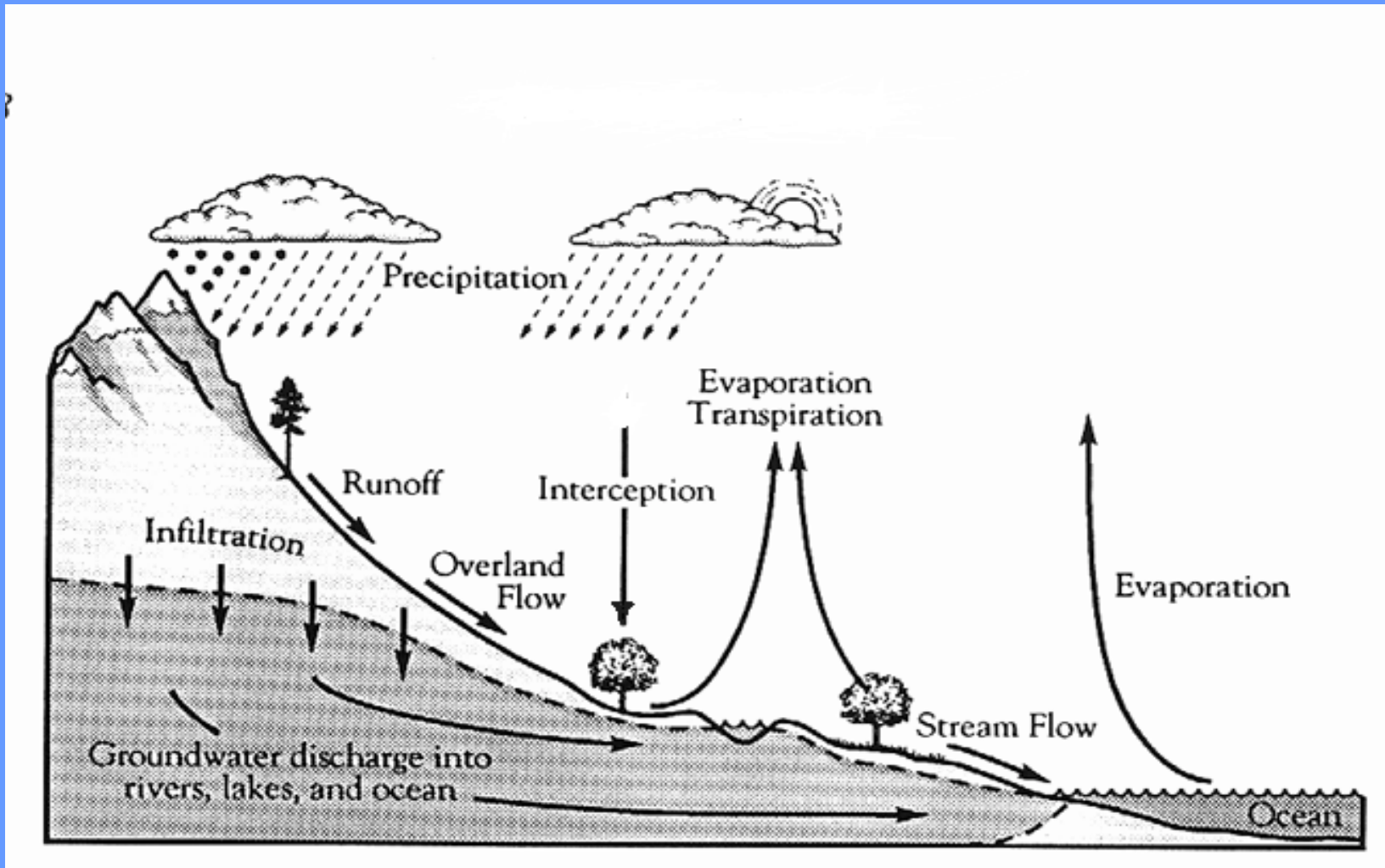
# Water

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## ◆ Part of all physical and biological processes

- Physical and Chemical Weathering
- Soil Formation
- Essential for all plants and animals
- Energy for Sediment Transport

# Hydrology



(Page, 1986)

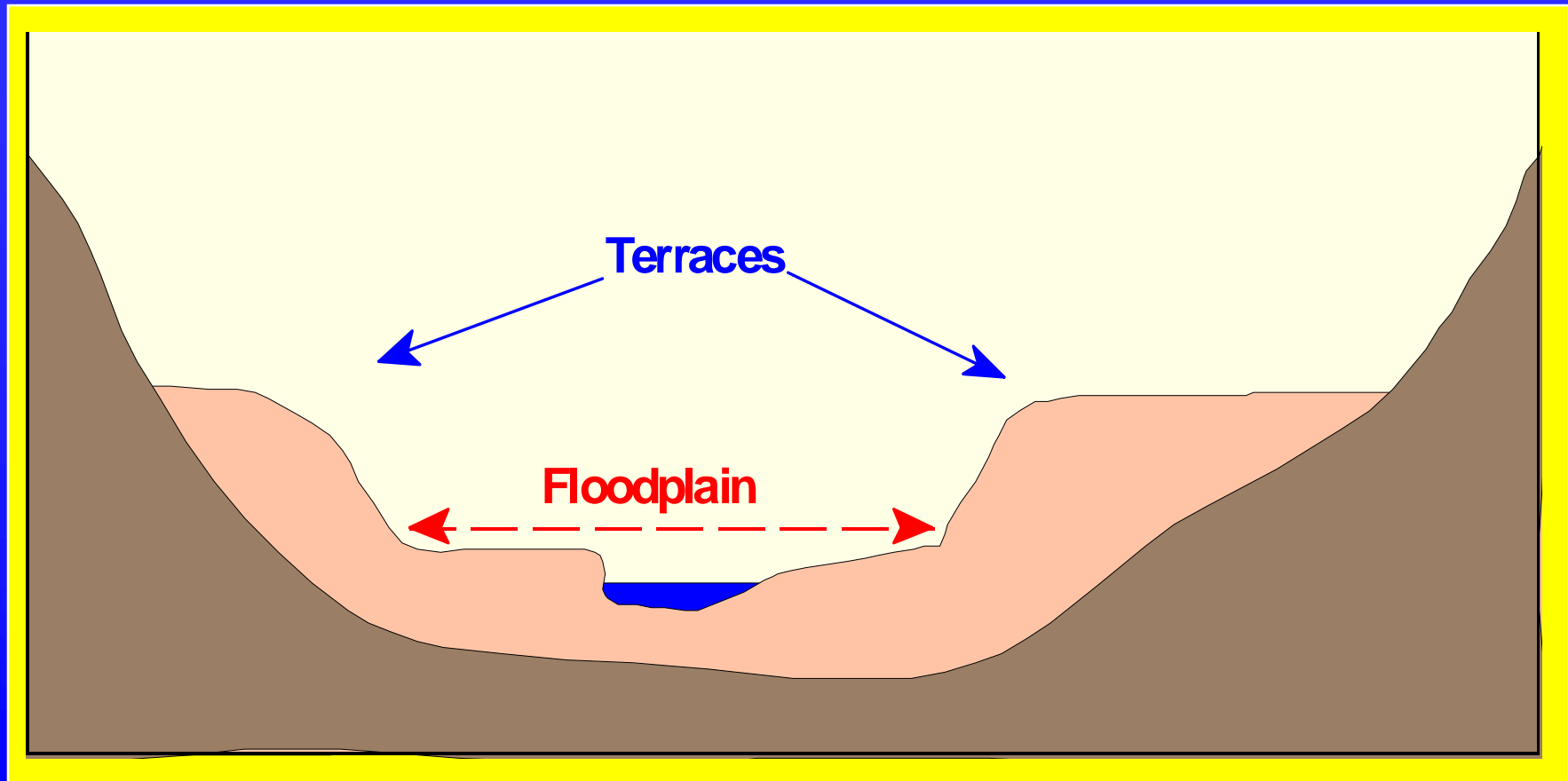
# Floodplain

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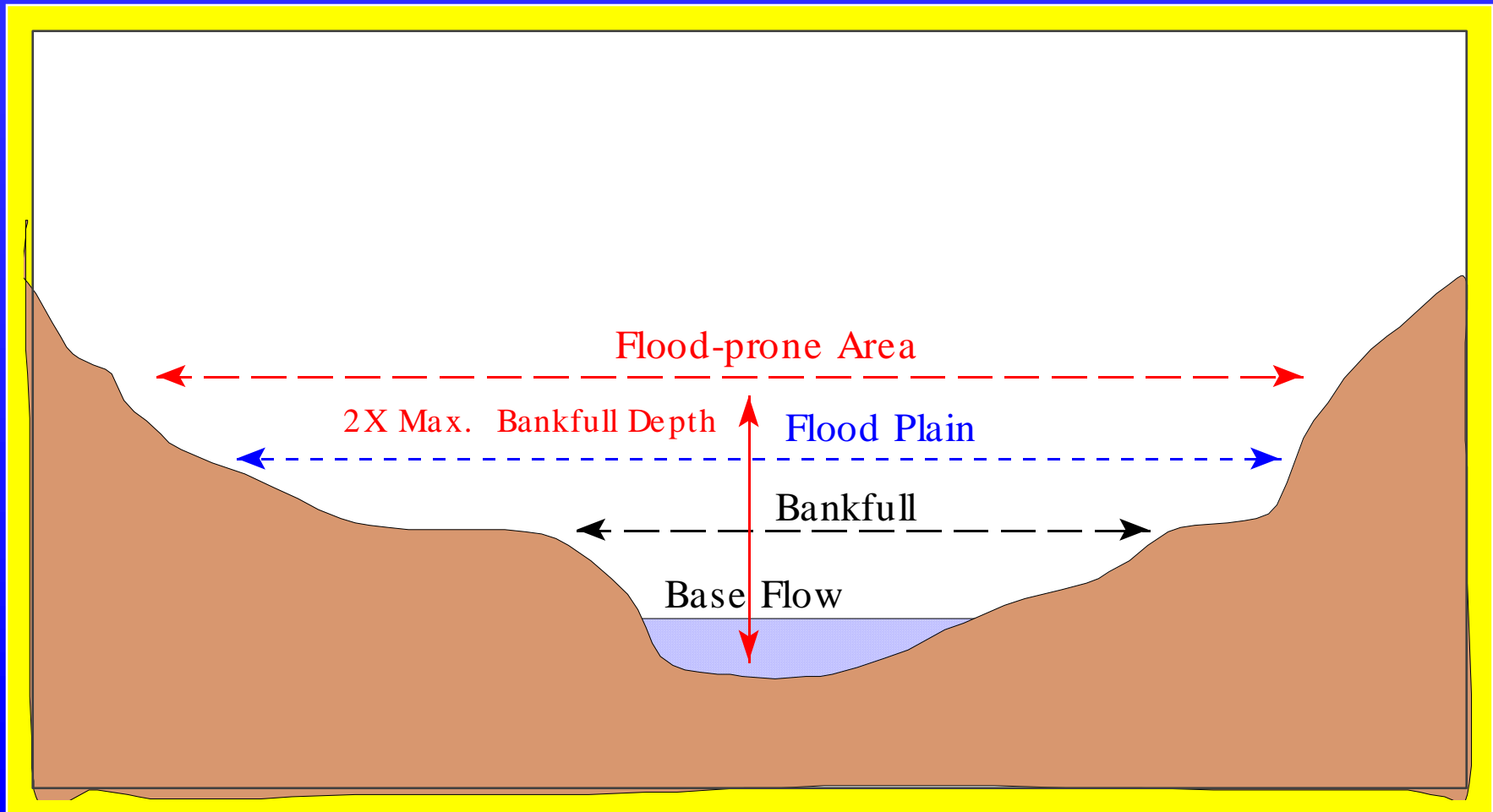
- ◆ Level area near a stream channel
- ◆ Flooded during moderate events
- ◆ Constructed by the stream
- ◆ In the present climate
- ◆ Should not be confused with “terraces”  
(abandoned floodplains)

(Leopold, 1994)

# Floodplain



# Channel Cross-Section



# Bankfull Discharge

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- ◆ **Results in the average geomorphologic channel characteristics**

- **Moves sediment**

- ◆ Forms and removes bars

- ◆ Forms or changes bends and meanders

- **Rekurs 2 out of every 3 years on average**

# CHANNEL-FORMING FLOWS

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## DOMINANT DISCHARGE

The discharge responsible for the largest volume of sediment transport over a long period of record. It is typically a 1-3-year event.

## BANKFULL DISCHARGE

The discharge that fills the width and depth of stable, alluvial streams. It fills the channel up to the first flat depositional surface (active floodplain) in the stream. Rosgen (1996) and Leopold (1994) say it is typically a 1.5-year event.

## EFFECTIVE DISCHARGE

This discharge is similar to the dominant and bankfull discharges except that it can be determined from measured or calculated flow and sediment records.



# Bankfull Stage Indicators

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## ◆ Deposition Features

- Top of point bars

## ◆ Change in Vegetation

- Especially lower limit of perennial species

## ◆ Change in particle size of bank material

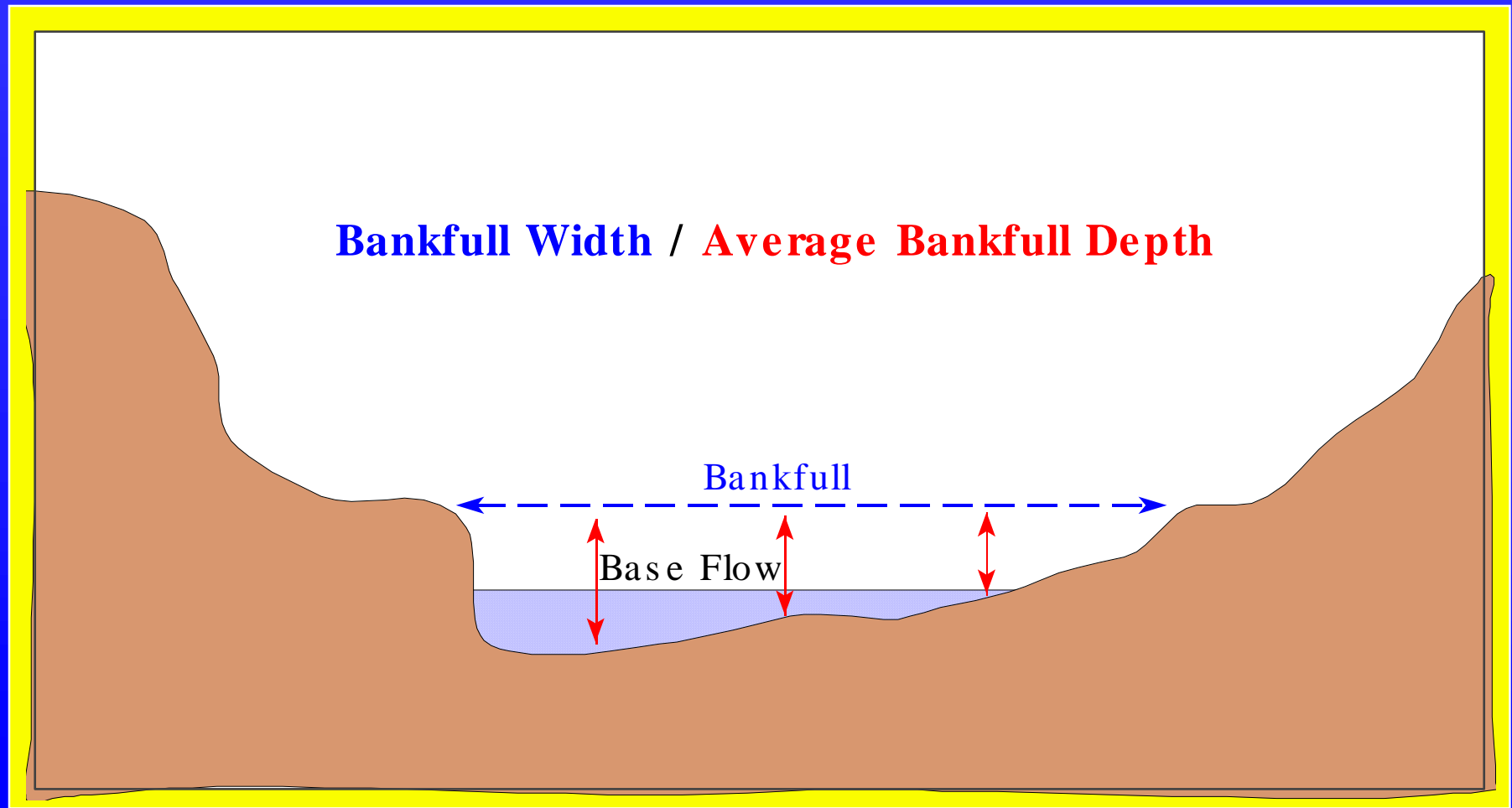
- Boundary between cobble/boulder and fine grained sand or silt

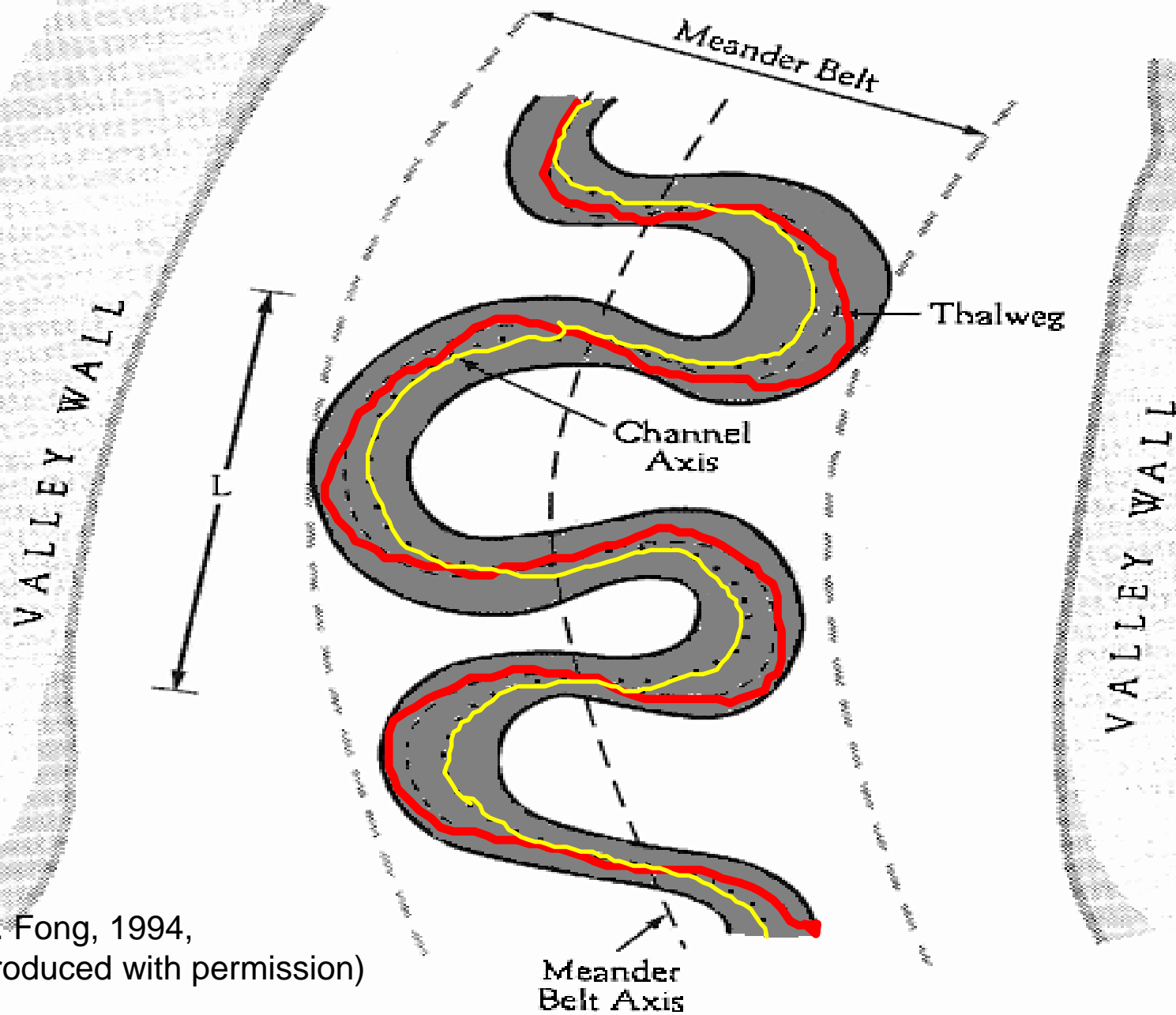
# Bankfull Stage Indicators

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- ◆ **Undercut banks**
  - Usually slightly below bankfull stage
- ◆ **Stain lines or lower extent of lichens on boulders**

# Width/Depth Ratio





(J.C. Fong, 1994,  
reproduced with permission)

## Floodplain Evolution

meander scrolls

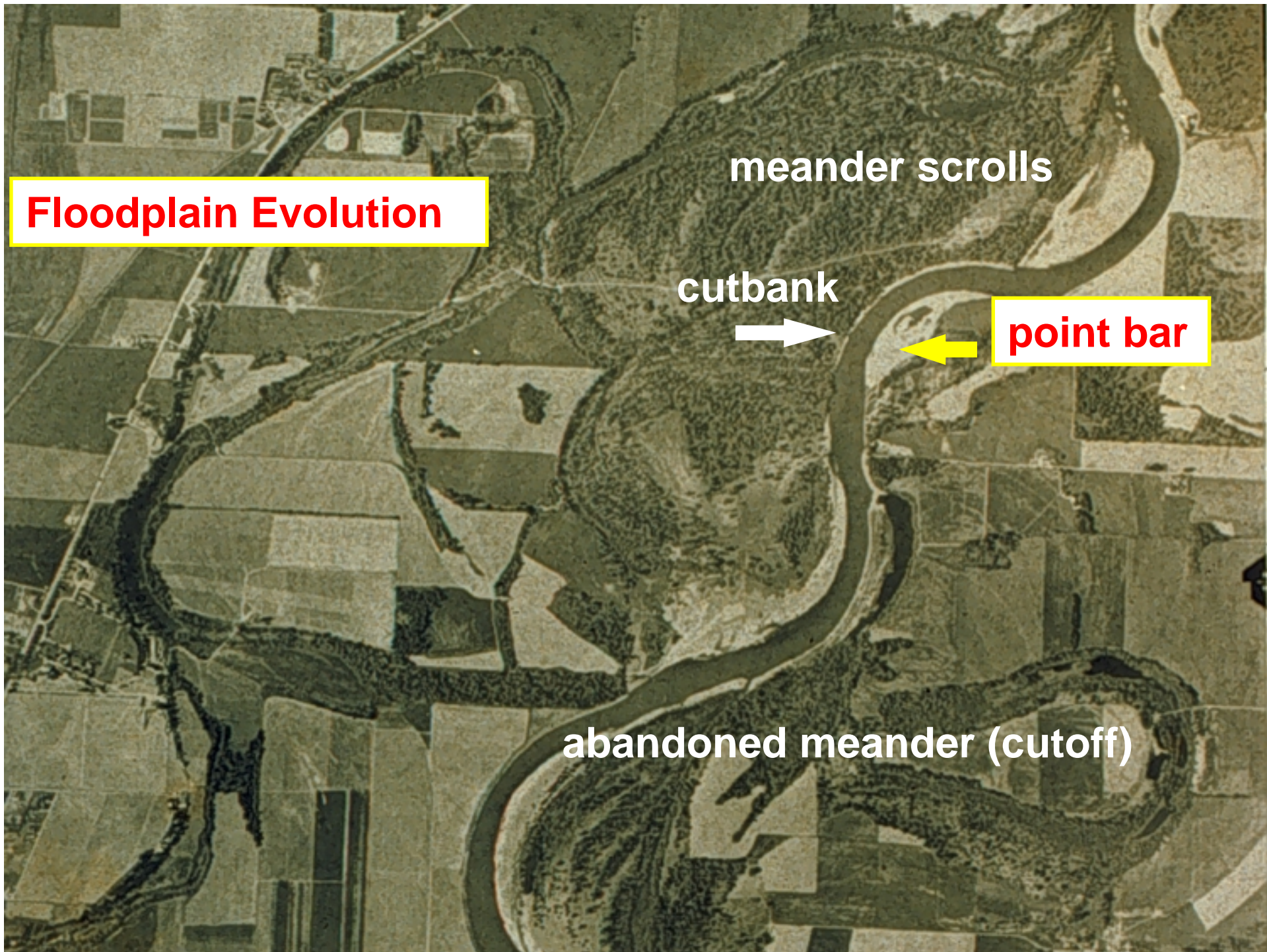
cutbank



point bar



abandoned meander (cutoff)







## Walla Walla River, WA

football field & track

next slide view



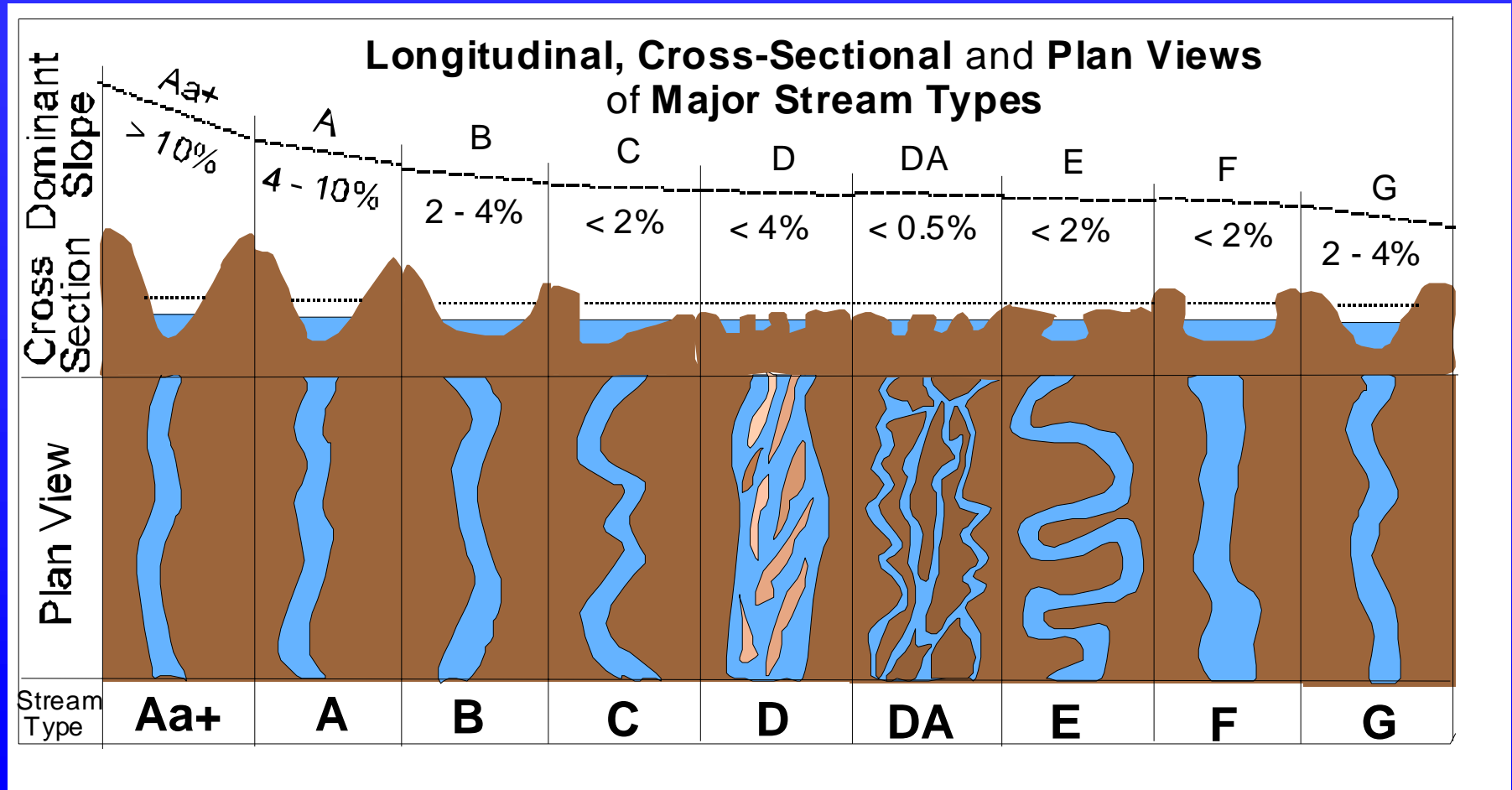


**Walla Walla River, WA**

**football field & track**



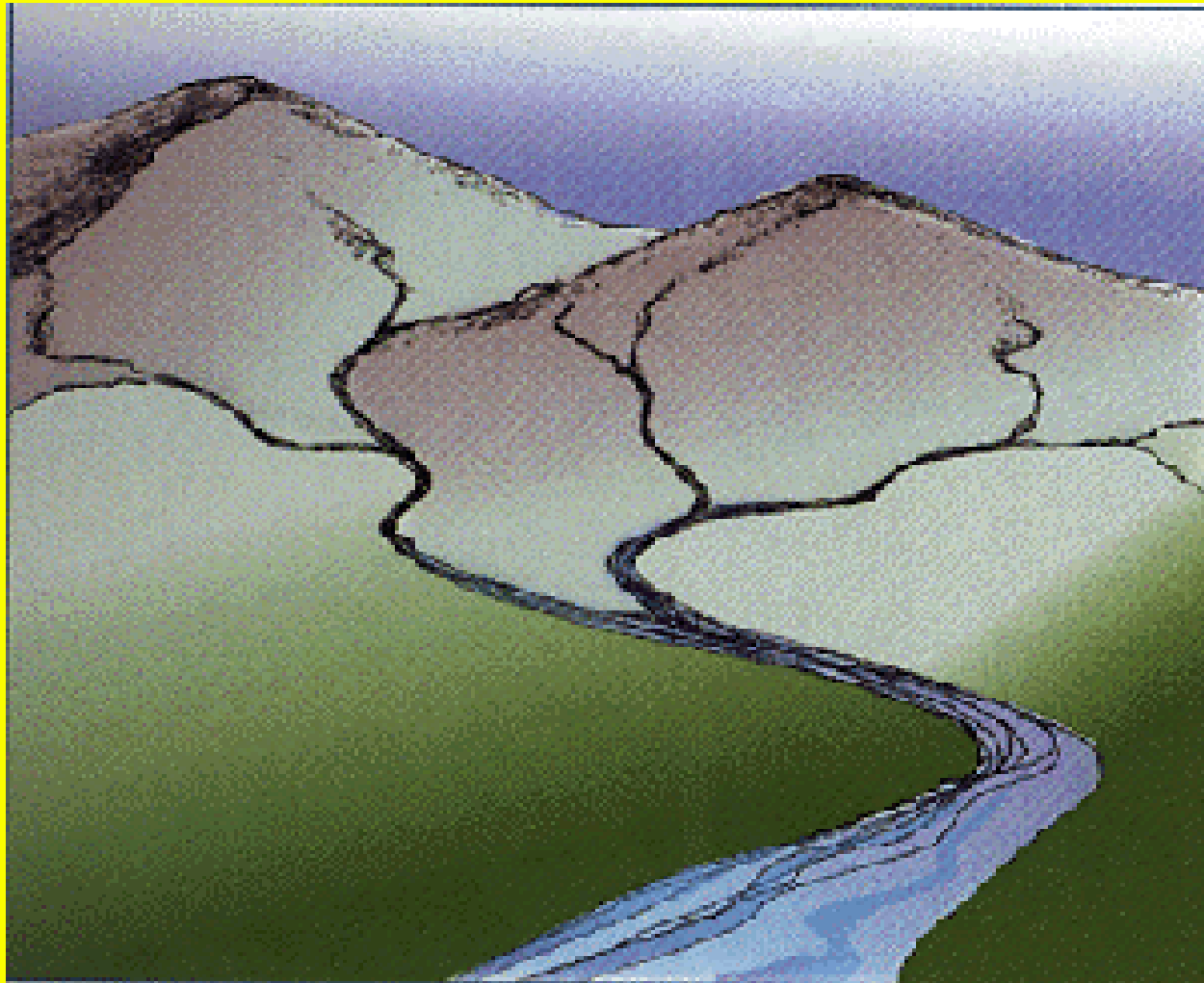
# Rosgen Stream Types



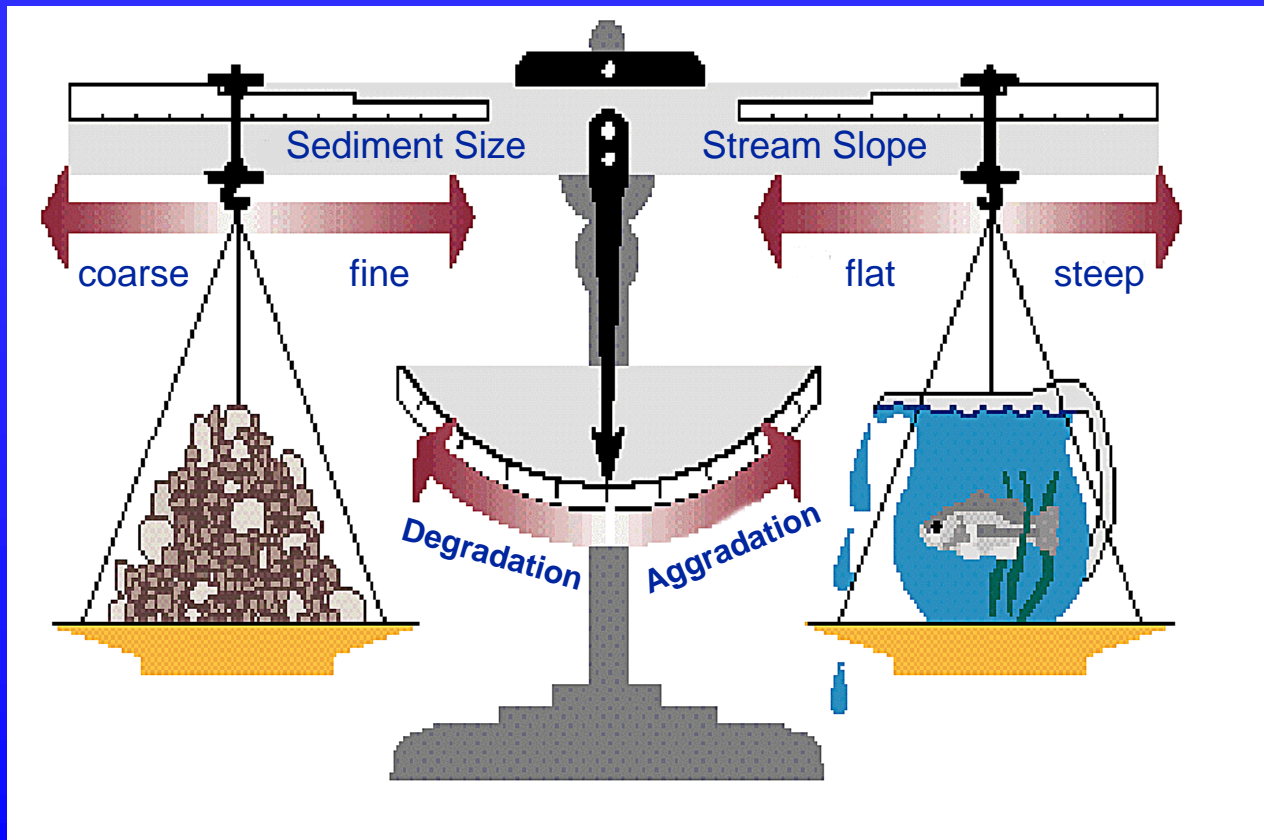


# Stream Types across the Landscape

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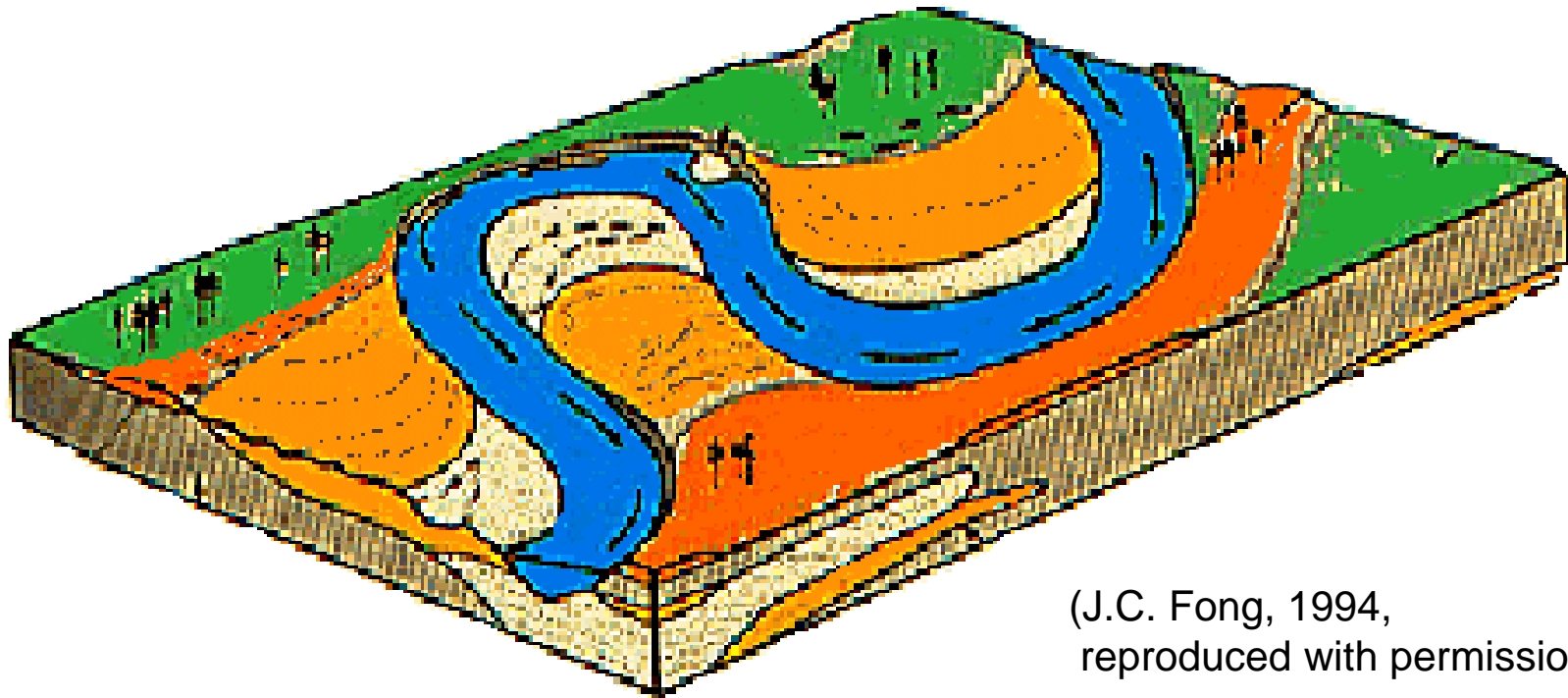
# Stream Balance Equation (Lane, 1955):



$$Q_s * D_{50} = Q_w * S$$

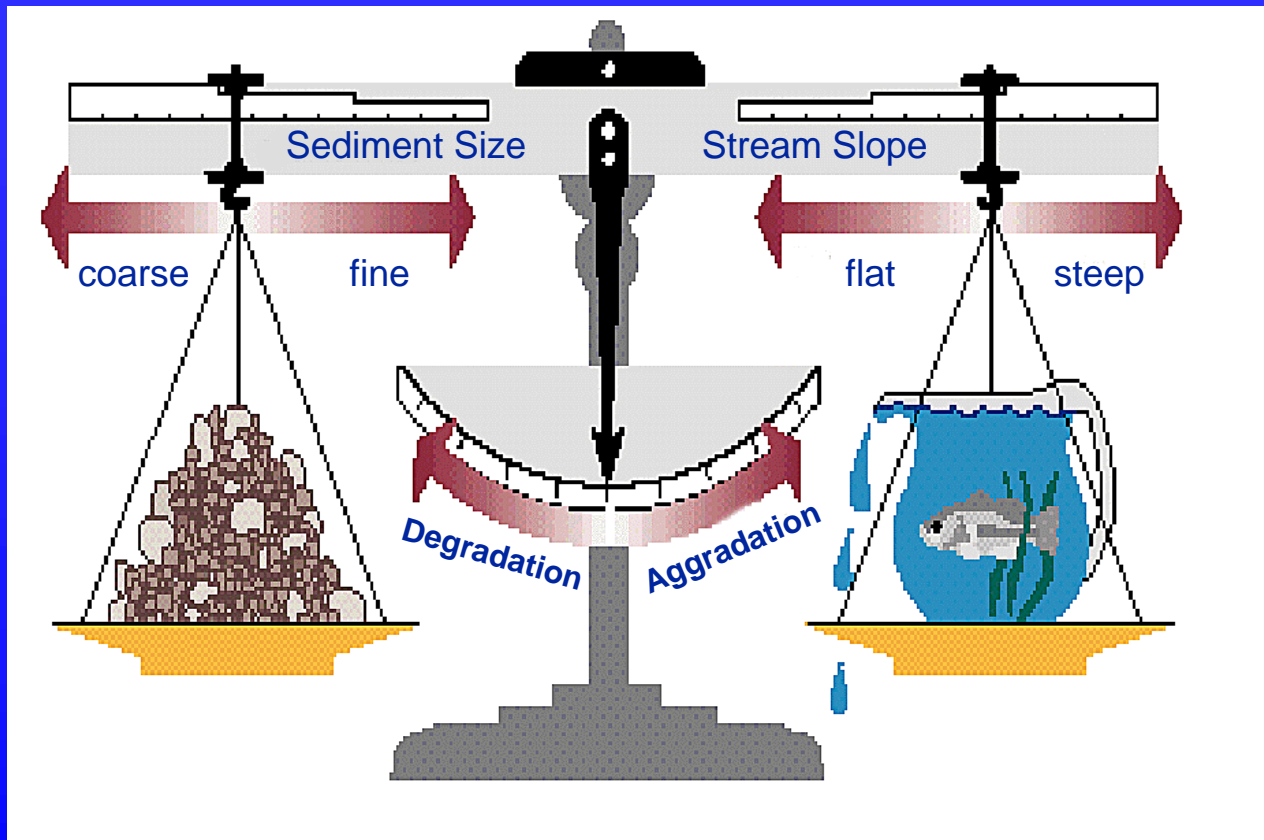
(NRCS, (1998))

# Meandering Streams



(J.C. Fong, 1994,  
reproduced with permission)

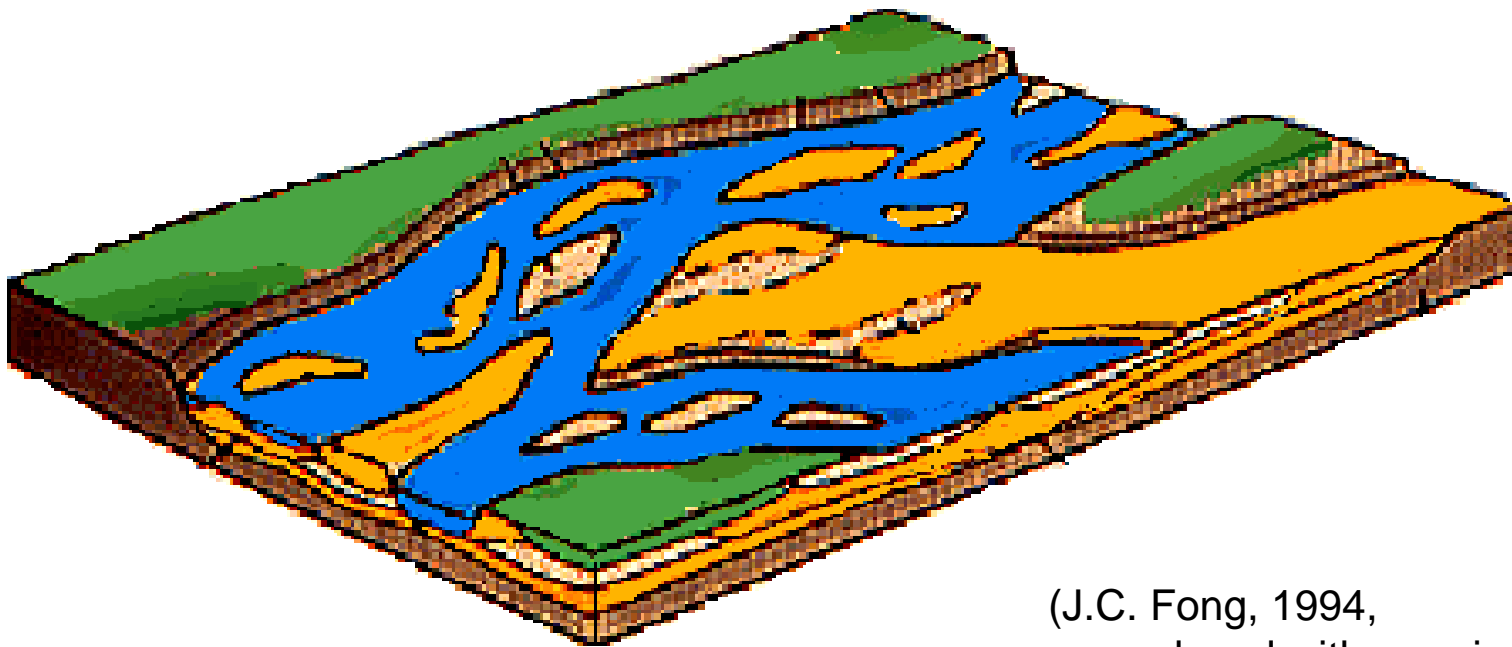
# Stream Balance Equation (Lane, 1955):



$$Q_s * D_{50} = Q_w * S$$

(NRCS, (1998)

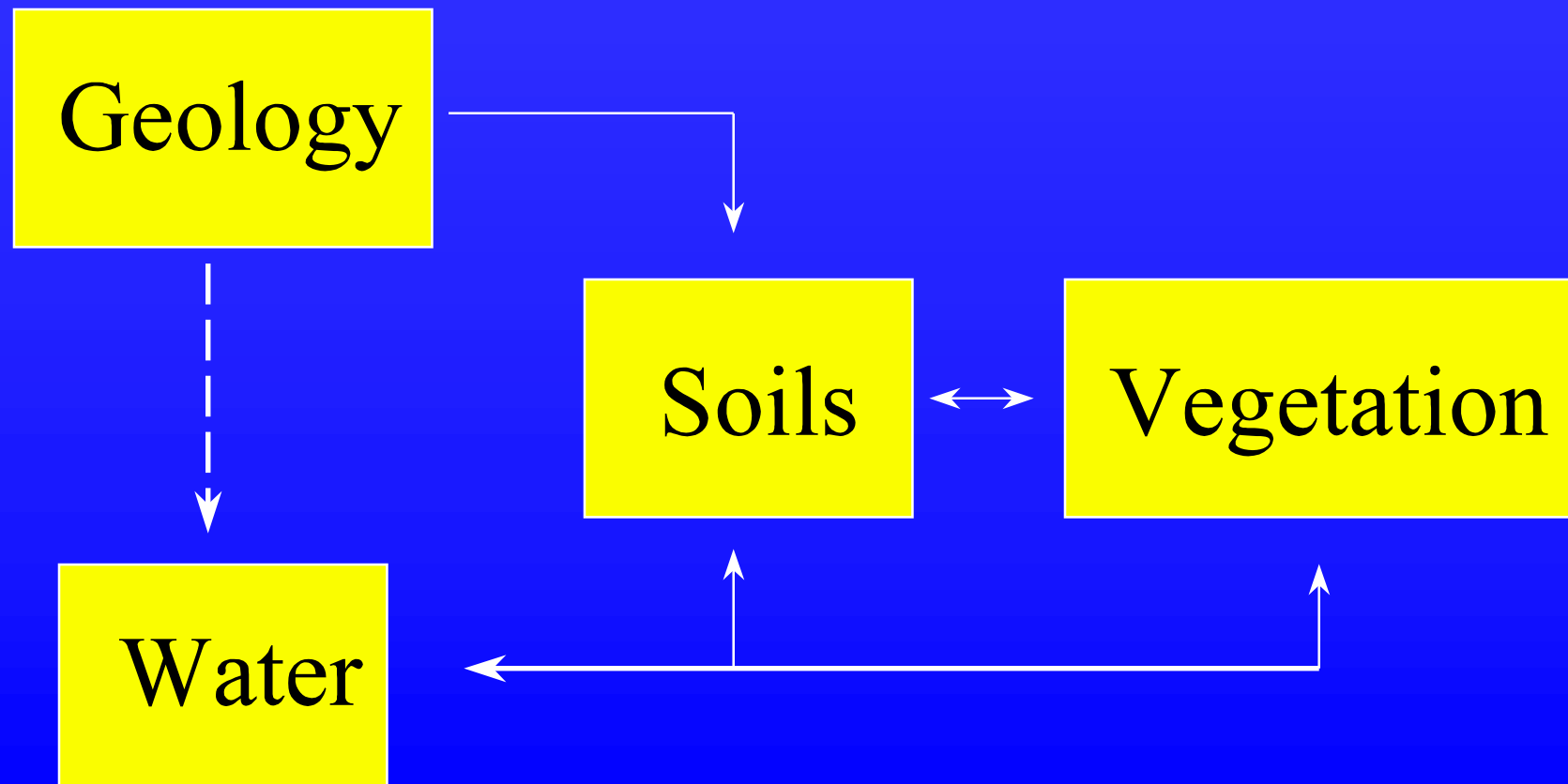
# Braided Streams



(J.C. Fong, 1994,  
reproduced with permission)

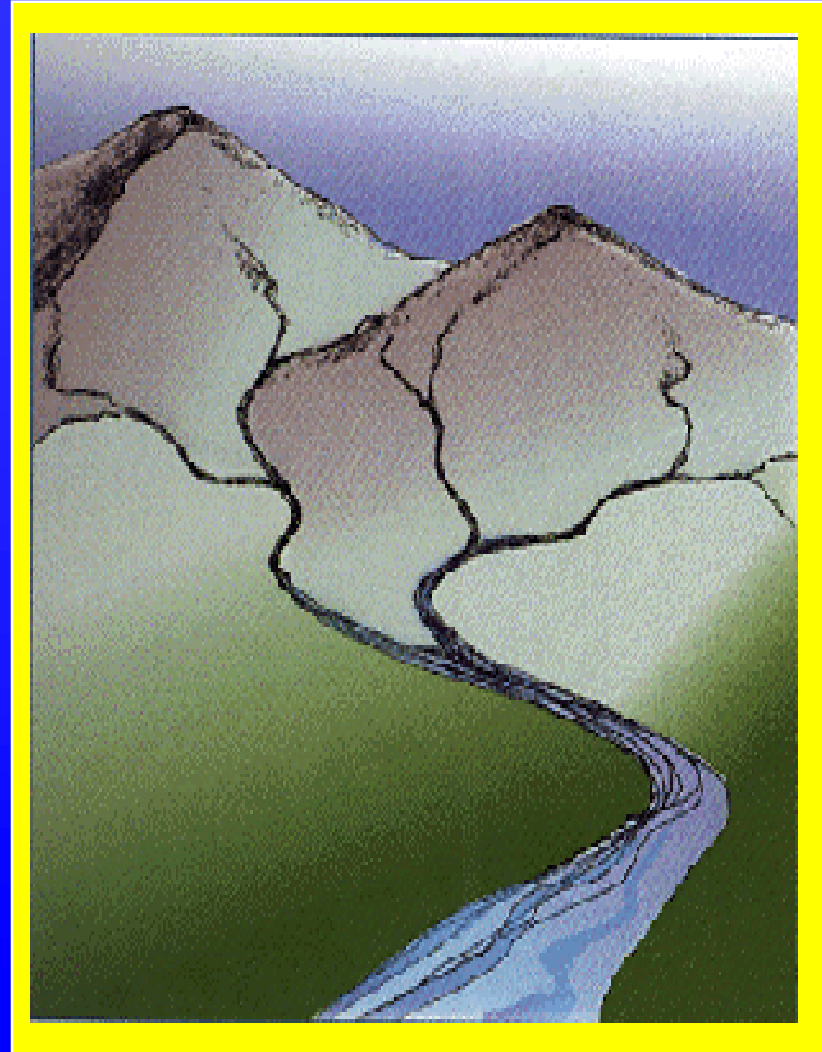
# Watershed Controls on Stream Morphology

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# Fixed Watershed Variables

- ◆ Area
- ◆ Shape
- ◆ Orientation
- ◆ Slope
- ◆ Elevation
- ◆ Drainage Pattern



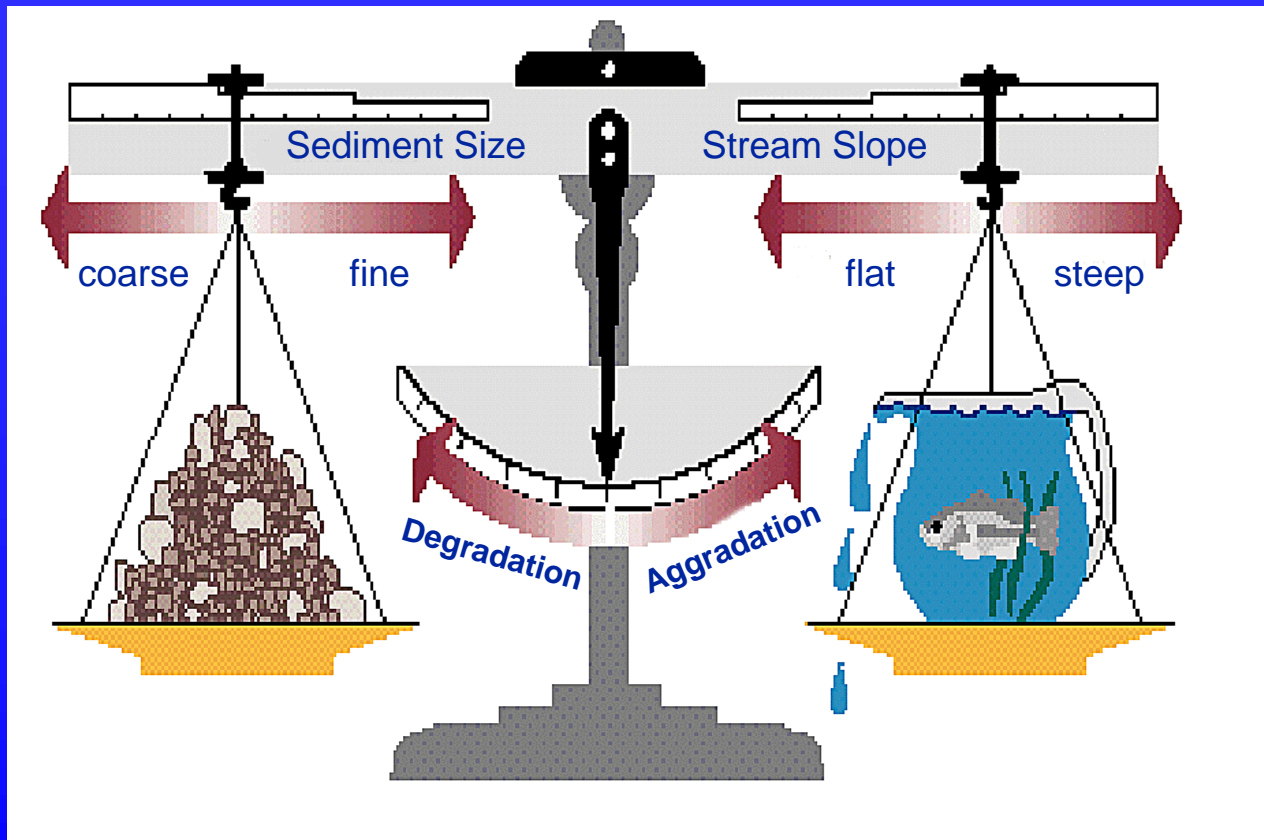
# Management Influenced Watershed Variables

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- ◆ **Impervious Area**
- ◆ **Soils**
- ◆ **Drainage Density**
- ◆ **Vegetation**
- ◆ **Channel Features**



# Stream Balance Equation (Lane, 1955):



$$Q_s * D_{50} = Q_w * S$$

(NRCS, (1998)

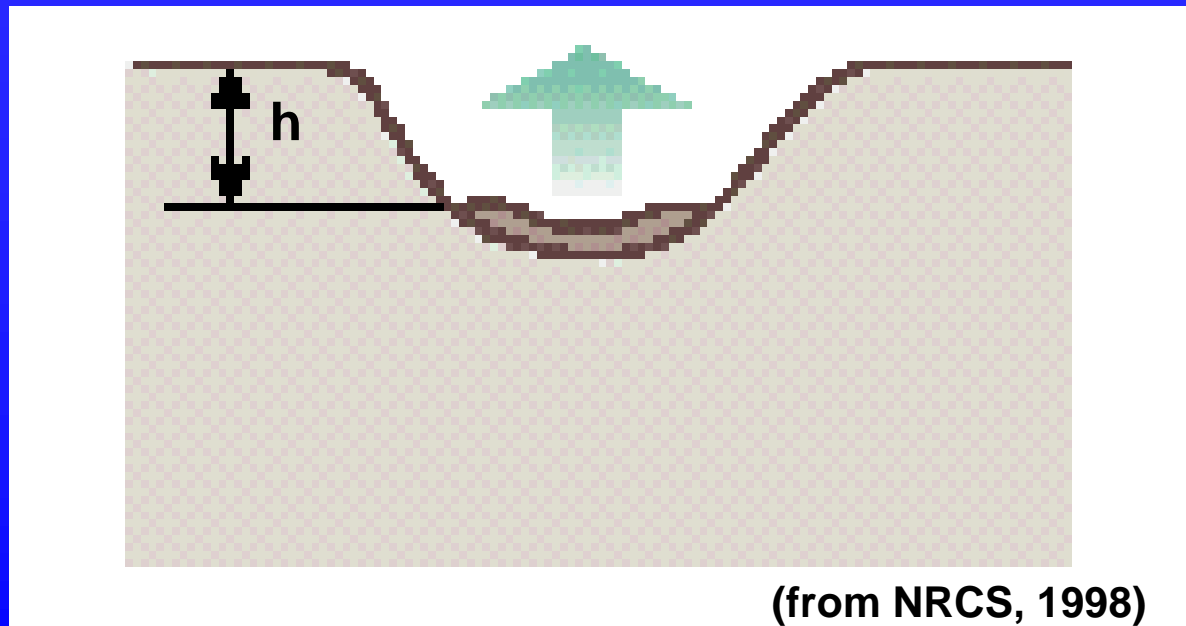
# Channel Evolution Model

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- ◆ **Pre-incision**
- ◆ **Incision**
- ◆ **Channel widening**
- ◆ **Dynamic stability**

# Channel Evolution Model

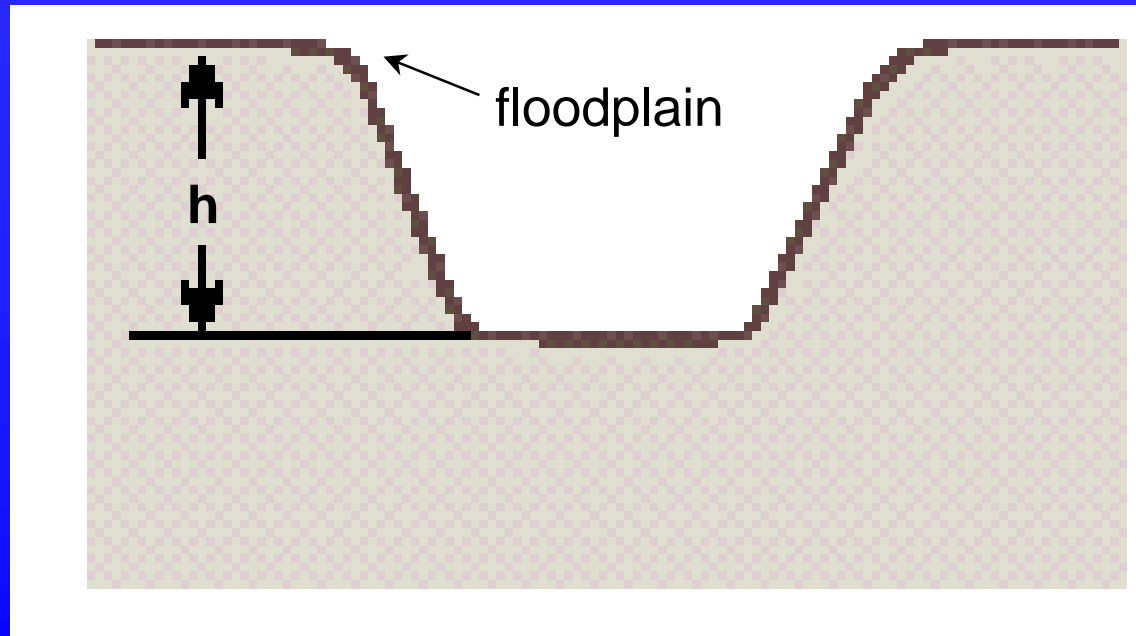
## Class I - Stable



$h < \text{critical bank height}$

# Channel Evolution Model

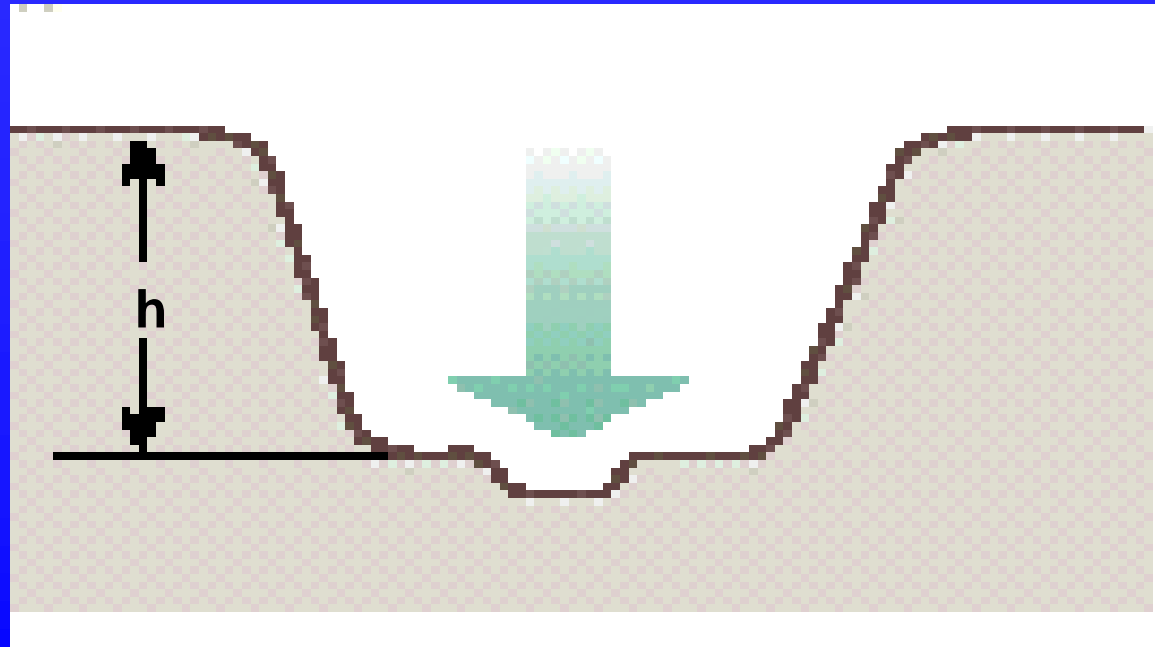
## Class II - Channelized



$h > \text{critical bank height}$

# Channel Evolution Model

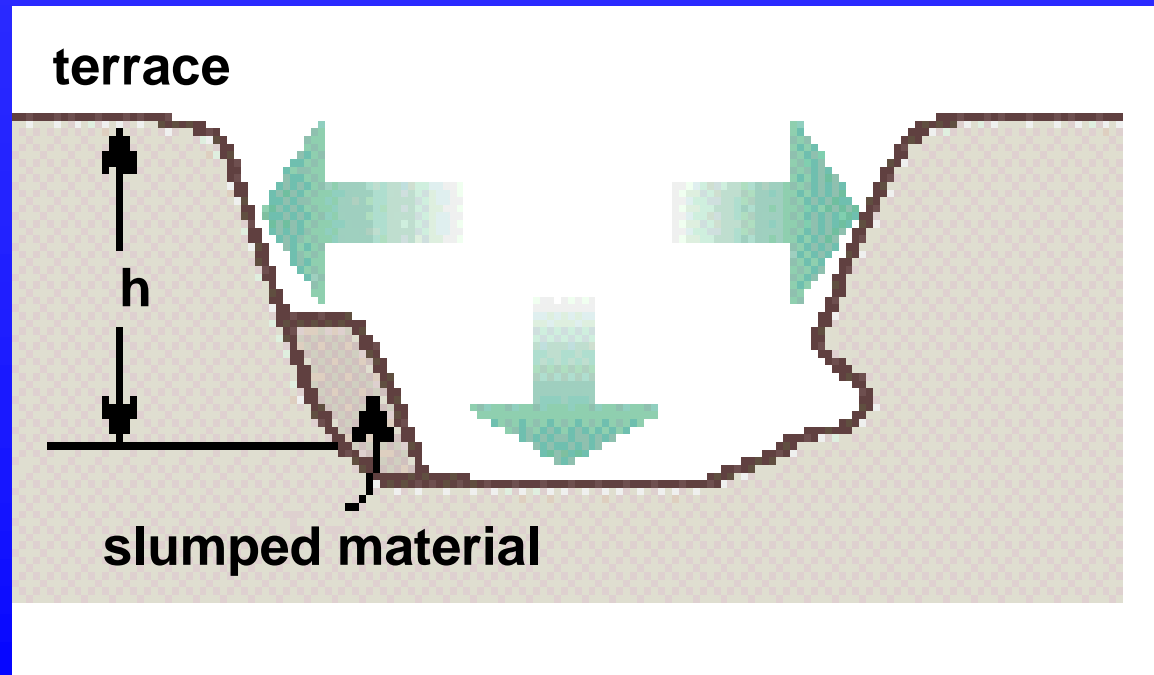
## Class III - Degradation



$h > \text{critical bank height}$

# Channel Evolution Model

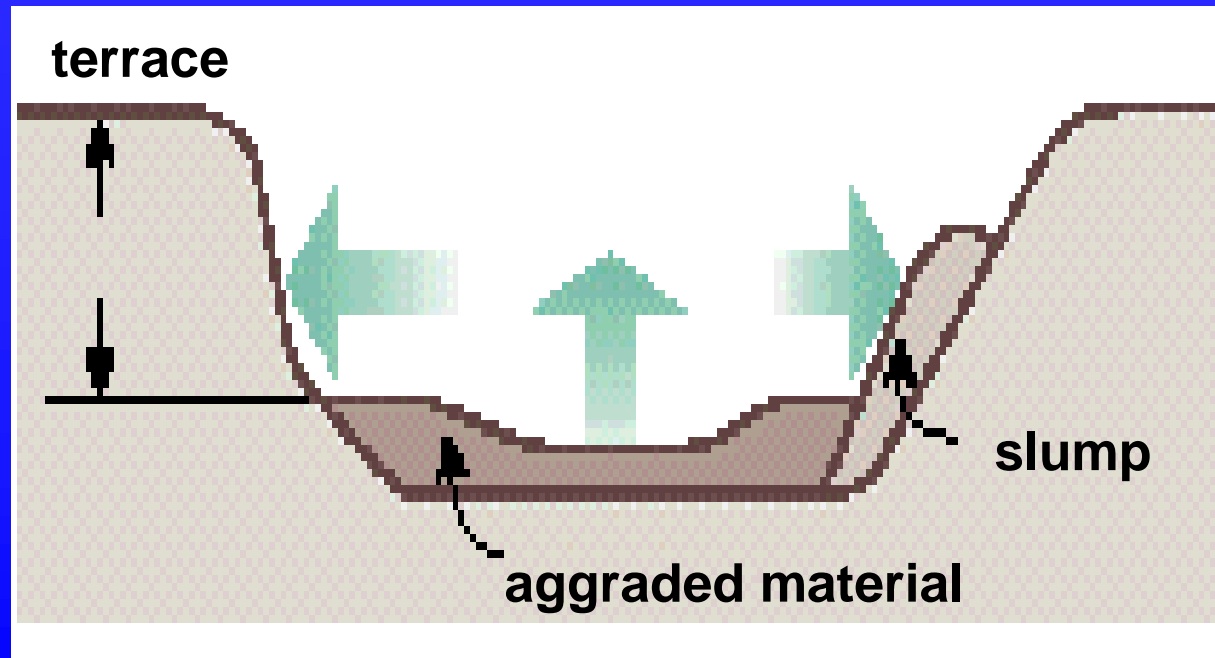
## Class IV - Degradation & Widening



$h > \text{critical bank height}$

# Channel Evolution Model

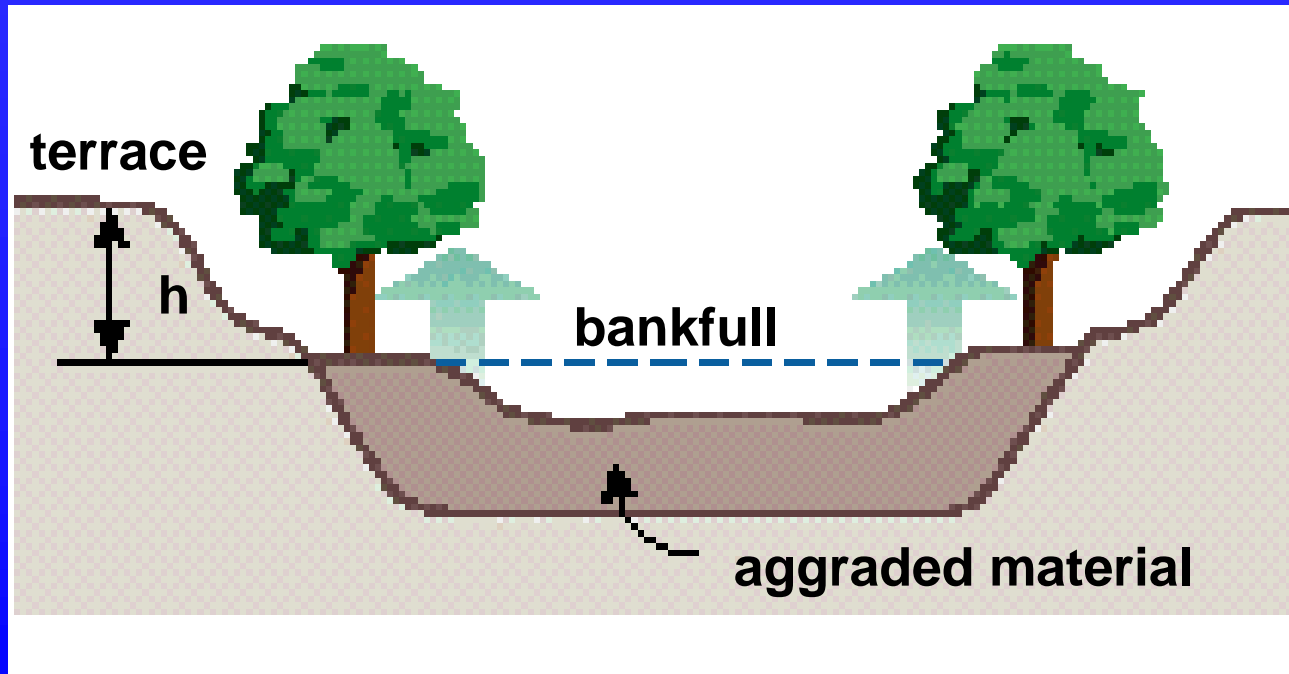
## Class V - Aggradation & Widening



$h > \text{critical bank height}$

# Channel Evolution Model

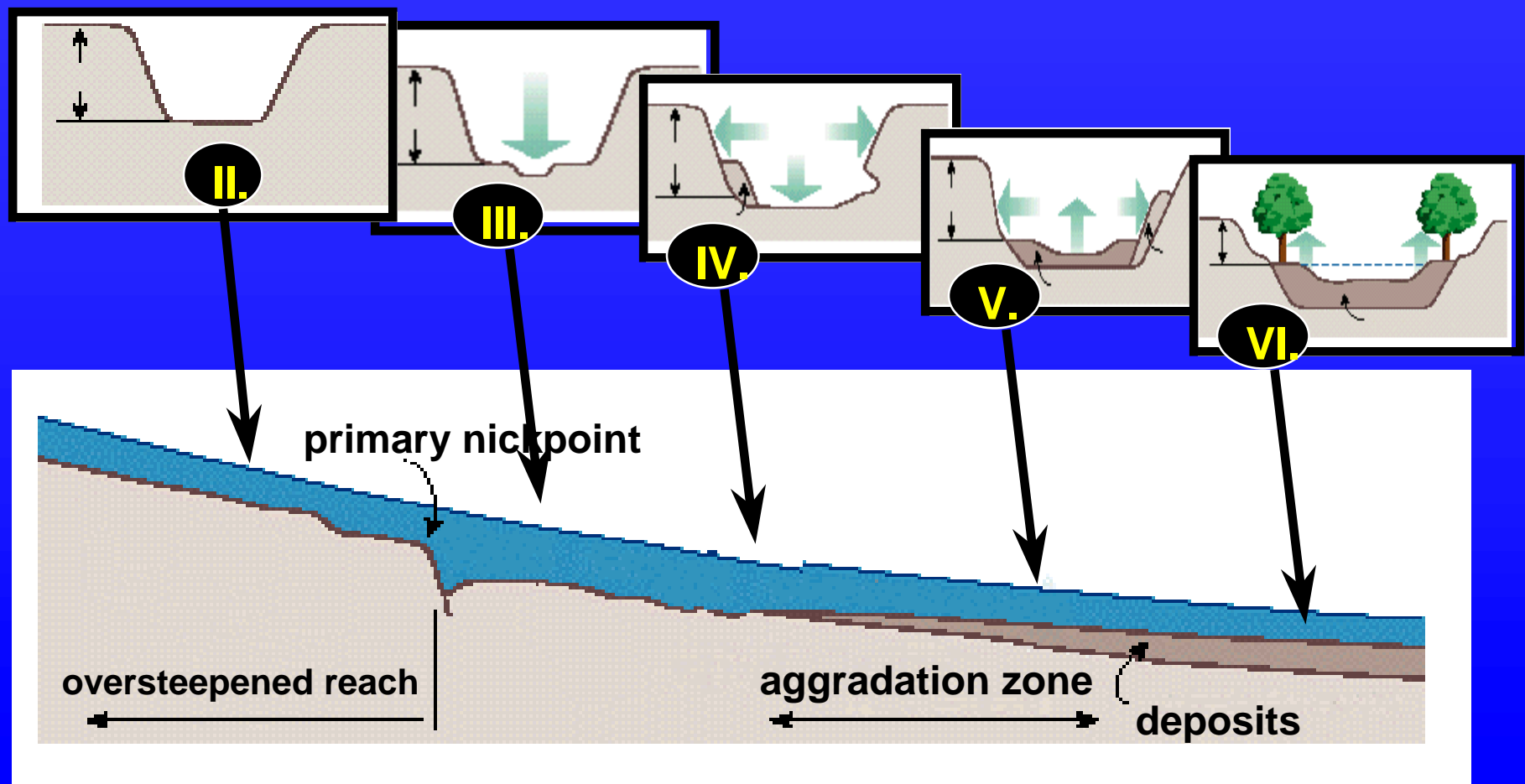
## Class VI - Quasi Equilibrium



$h < \text{critical bank height}$



# Channel Evolution Model (Space vs. Time)



(from NRCS, 1998)

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## **UNSTABLE, INCISED STREAM INDICATORS**

**high steep banks**

**cultural features exposed**

**slumps**

**no sediment deposits**

**overhanging vegetation**

**knickpoints**

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# PFC - California

## Planning and Decisionmaking

# Proper Functioning Condition -

Planning  
&  
Decisionmaking\*

\*Where are we now...  
Where do we want to be?

# Determine Capability and Potential

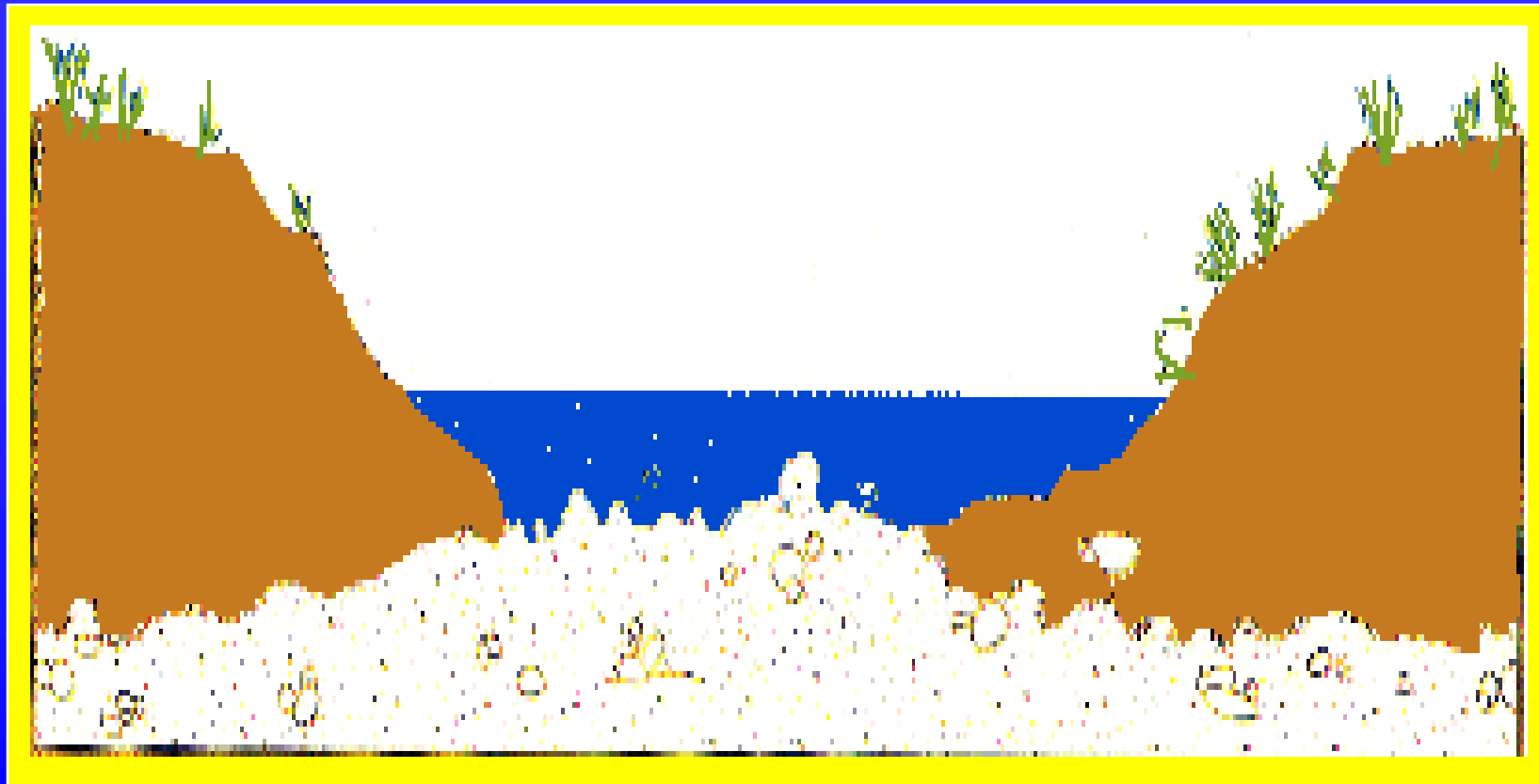
## ◆ Characterize Historic Condition

- Relic areas (e.g., preserves)
- Historic photos, survey notes, and/or other documents
- Species lists (plant and animal)
- Species habitat needs
- Soils indicators of preexisting hydrologic & ecological conditions
- Geomorphic indicators of preexisting landform & hydrologic conditions
- Watershed natural and land-use history

# **Determination of Capability and Potential, cont'd**

- **Evaluate Present Condition in Context of Historic Condition**
  - Watershed Condition
  - Hydrology (frequency and duration of flooding, etc)
  - Species lists (plant and animal)
  - Species habitat needs
  - Limiting Factors - natural and human
- **Determine Capability and Potential of Site**

# Vegetation Community Succession



**Bare Ground**

# Vegetation Community Succession

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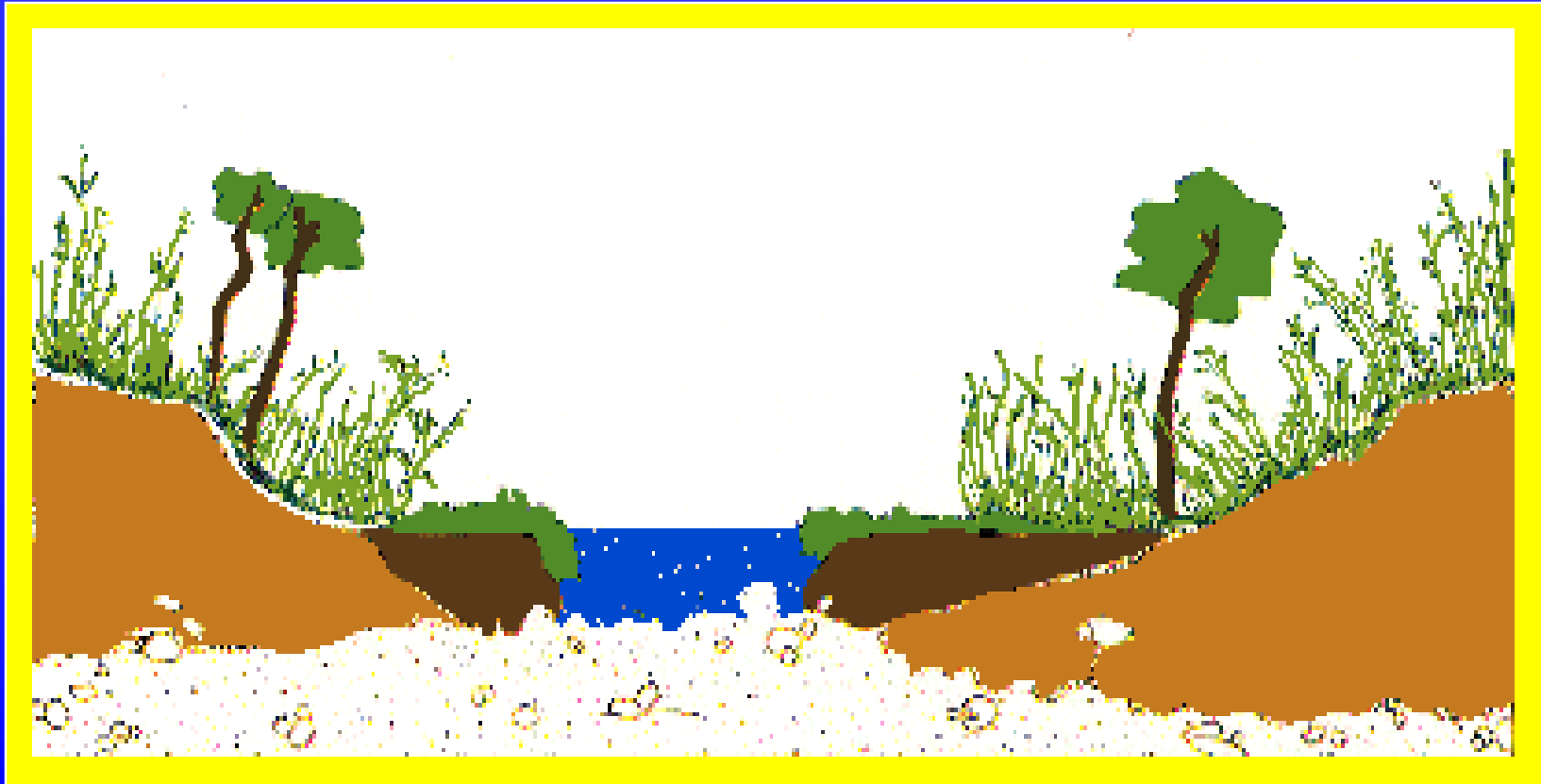


**Early Seral**



# Vegetation Community Succession

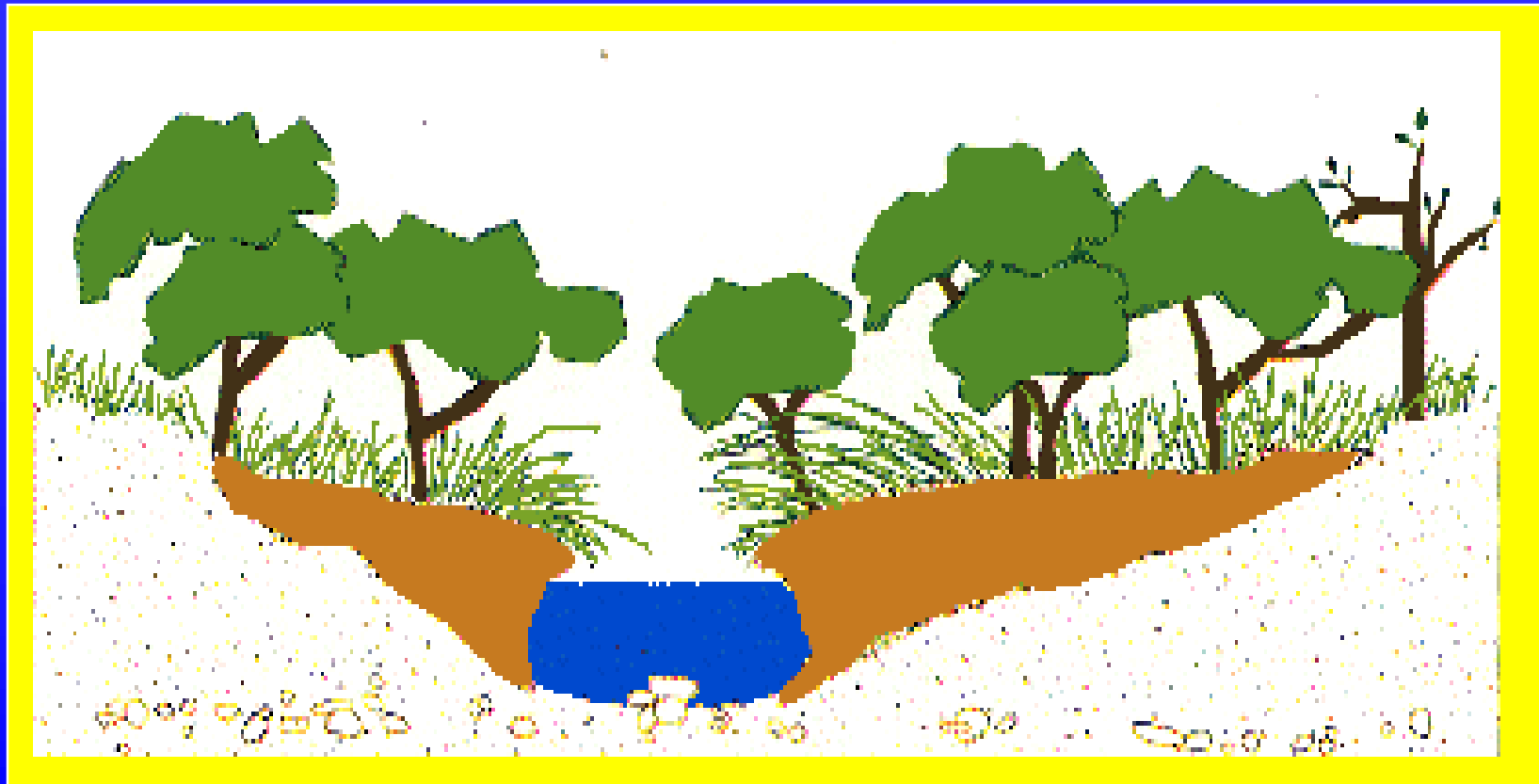
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**Mid-Seral**

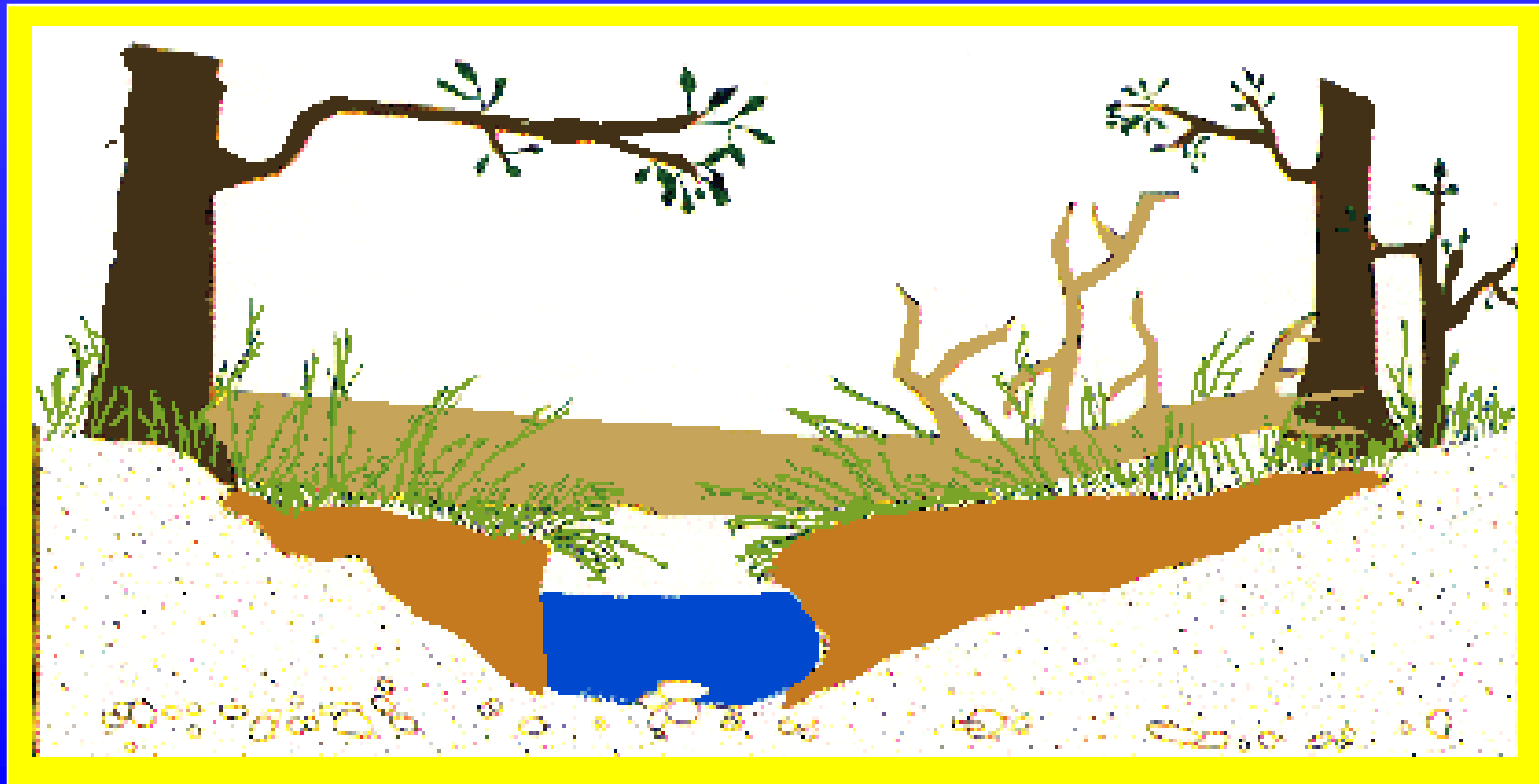
# Vegetation Community Succession

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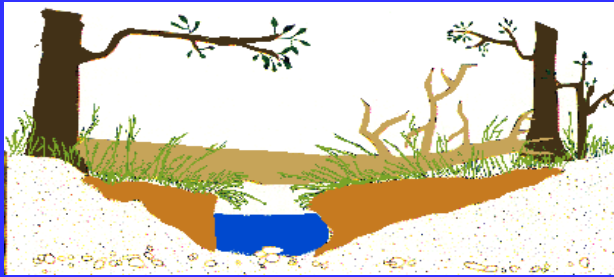


**Late Seral**

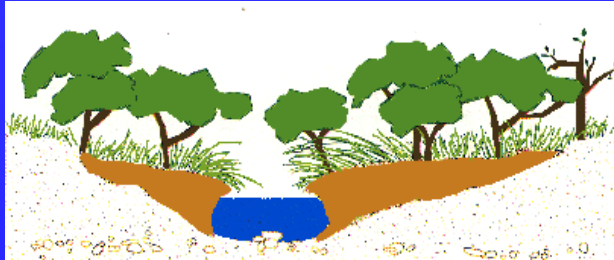
# Vegetation Community Succession



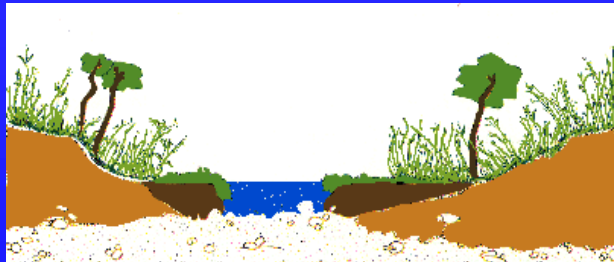
**Potential Natural Community  
(PNC)**



PNC



Late



Mid

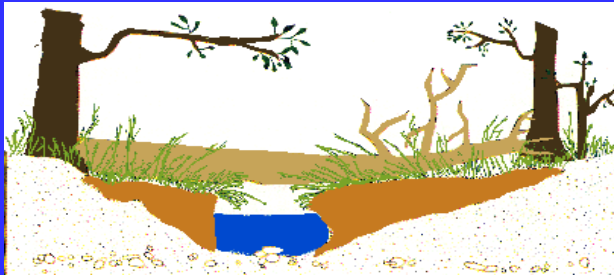


Early

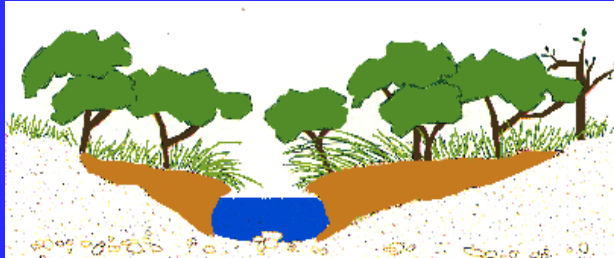


Bare

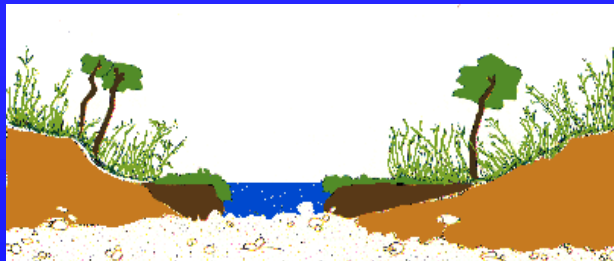
PFC



PNC



Late



Mid



Early



Bare

Decision Space -  
VALUES



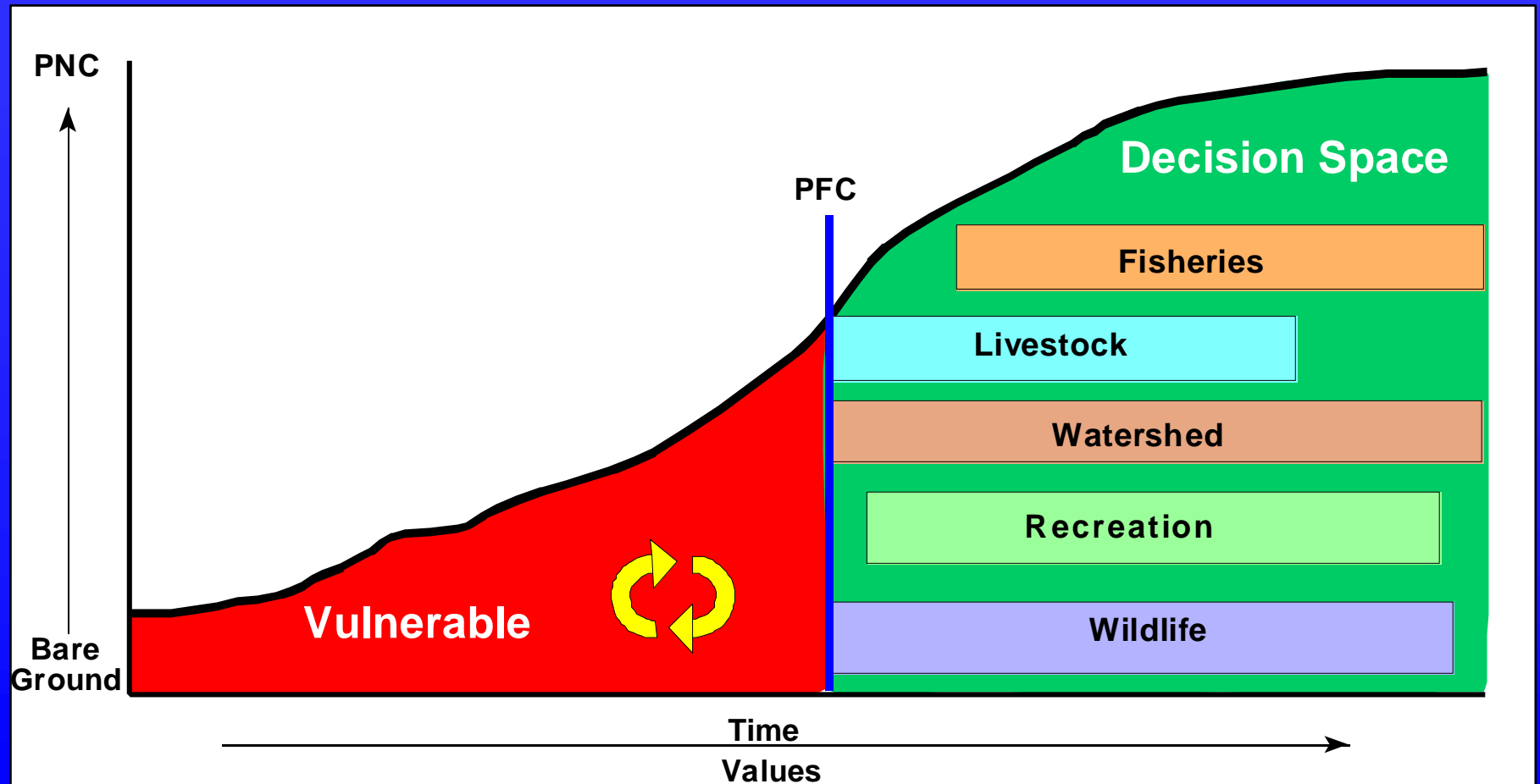
Functioning-At Risk

Nonfunctioning

# Desired Plant Community Reflects Values & Priorities

- ◆ **Watershed**
- ◆ **Forage**
- ◆ **Basketweaving**
- ◆ **Recreation**
- ◆ **Wildlife**
- ◆ **Fisheries**

# Riparian Vegetation Recovery



# Planning Process

## Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment

---

**Step 1 Existing Condition** - Determine the existing riparian-wetland and watershed condition utilizing appropriate inventories

**Step 2 Potential Condition** - Determine PNC by using relic areas, historic photos, reference areas, etc.

**Step 3 PFC** - Determine the minimum conditions required for the system to function properly

**Step 4 Resource Values** - Determine existing and potential resource values and the plant communities necessary to support them



# Planning Process

## Riparian Proper Functioning Condition Assessment

---

**Step 5 Management Goals** - Determine specific objectives necessary to reach the management goal for the watershed, DPC, or DFC

**Step 6 Planned Action** - Design management actions to achieve the DPC or DFC

**Step 7 Monitoring** - Design appropriate monitoring strategies to assess progress towards meeting the management goals and objectives

**Step 8 Flexibility or Adaptive Management** - Management should remain flexible to accommodate change based upon monitoring results

---

# PFC - California

## Lotic and Lentic Checklist

## PFC Assessment

# General Instructions

---

- ◆ An Interdisciplinary Team (ID) will be used.
- ◆ Delineate the stream reach to be inventoried
- ◆ Determine the potential/capability of the site
- ◆ Use checklist to determine Proper Functioning Condition for riparian-wetland areas
  - Evaluate each item and record the finding on the checklist
  - Elements are numbered for reference only and do NOT constitute a priority or importance
  - Document rationale in space provided

## PFC Assessment

# General Instructions

---

- ◆ Determine the Functional Rating:
  - Functioning Properly
  - Functioning At--Risk
    - ◆ Upward Trend
    - ◆ Downward Trend
  - Nonfunctioning
- ◆ Complete the checklist summary.
- ◆ Establish photo points where possible

---

# Lotic Checklist

## Hydrologic Factors

# Lotic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors

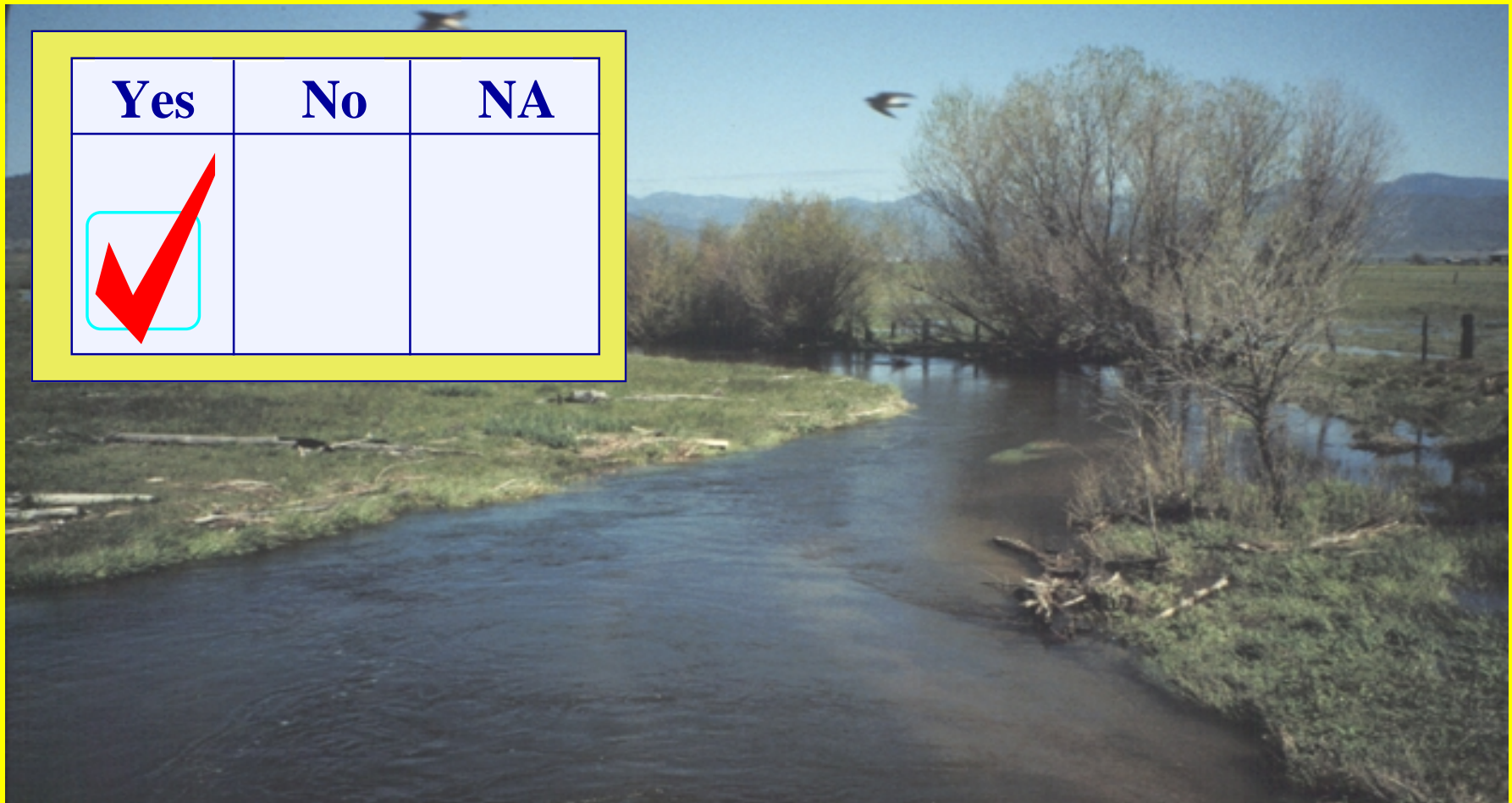
---

Yes	No	NA

**1) Floodplain above  
bankfull is inundated  
in “relatively  
frequent” events**

# 1) Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in “relatively frequent” events

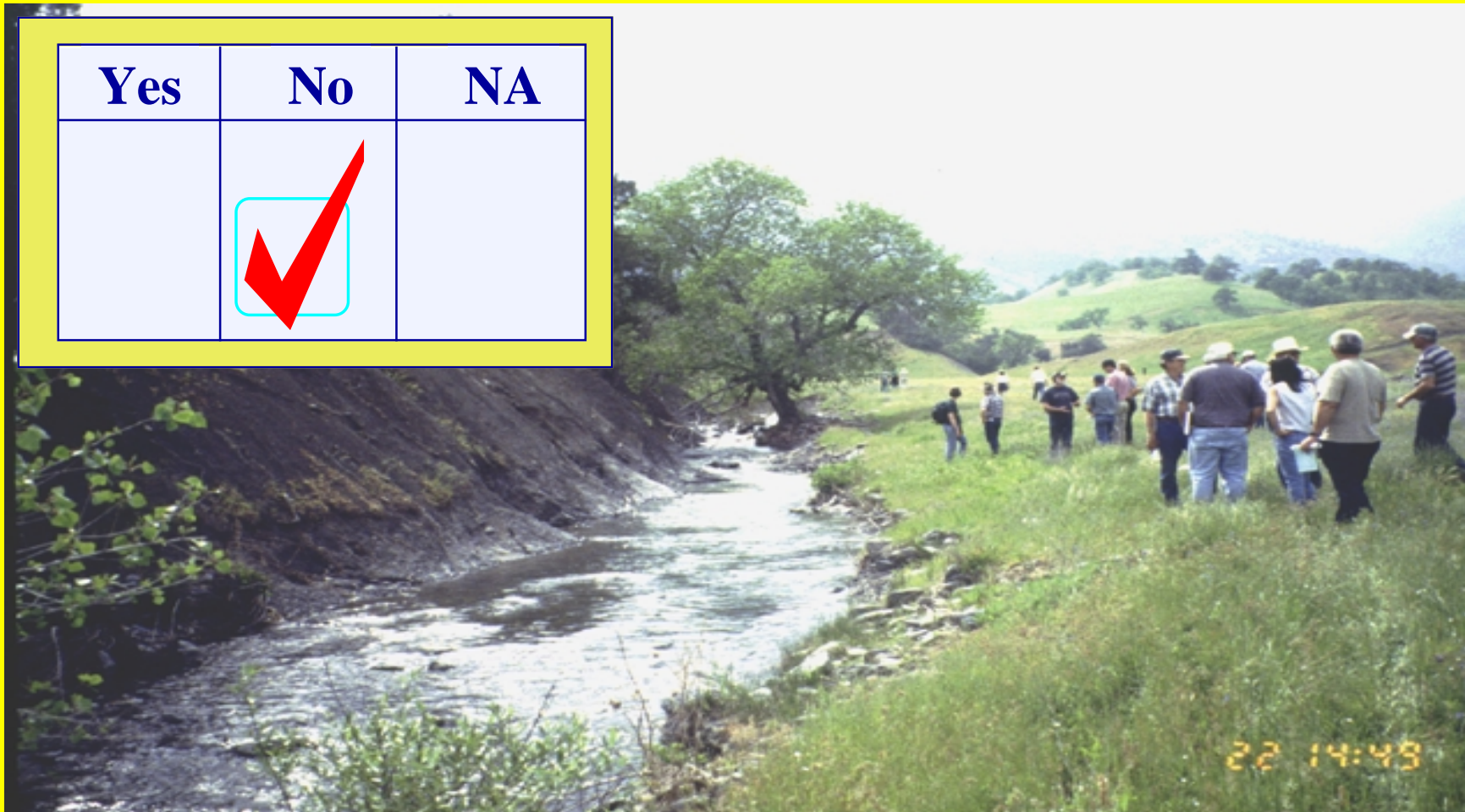
Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		





# 1) Floodplain above bankfull is inundated in “relatively frequent” events

Yes	No	NA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Clover Creek Watershed, Glenn Co.(1998)



# **Lotic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors**

---

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>

**2) Where beaver dams  
are present they are  
active and stable**

# Lotic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors

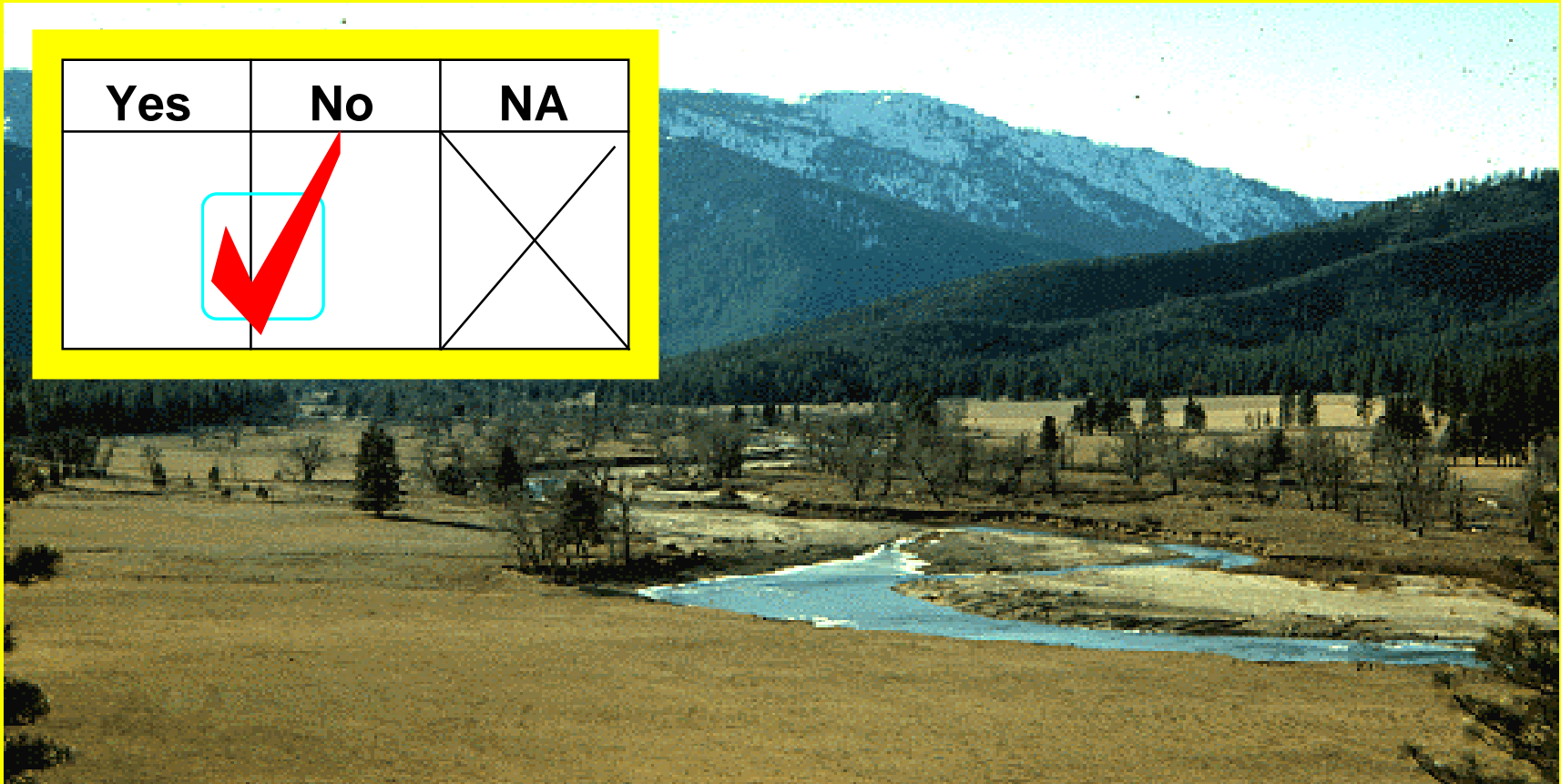
---

Yes	No	NA

3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with the landscape setting (i.e. landform, geology, and bioclimatic region).

### 3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with landscape setting

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Indian Creek, Plumas Co

### 3) Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are in balance with landscape setting



Panoche Creek, Fresno Co.(1993)

# **Lotic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors**

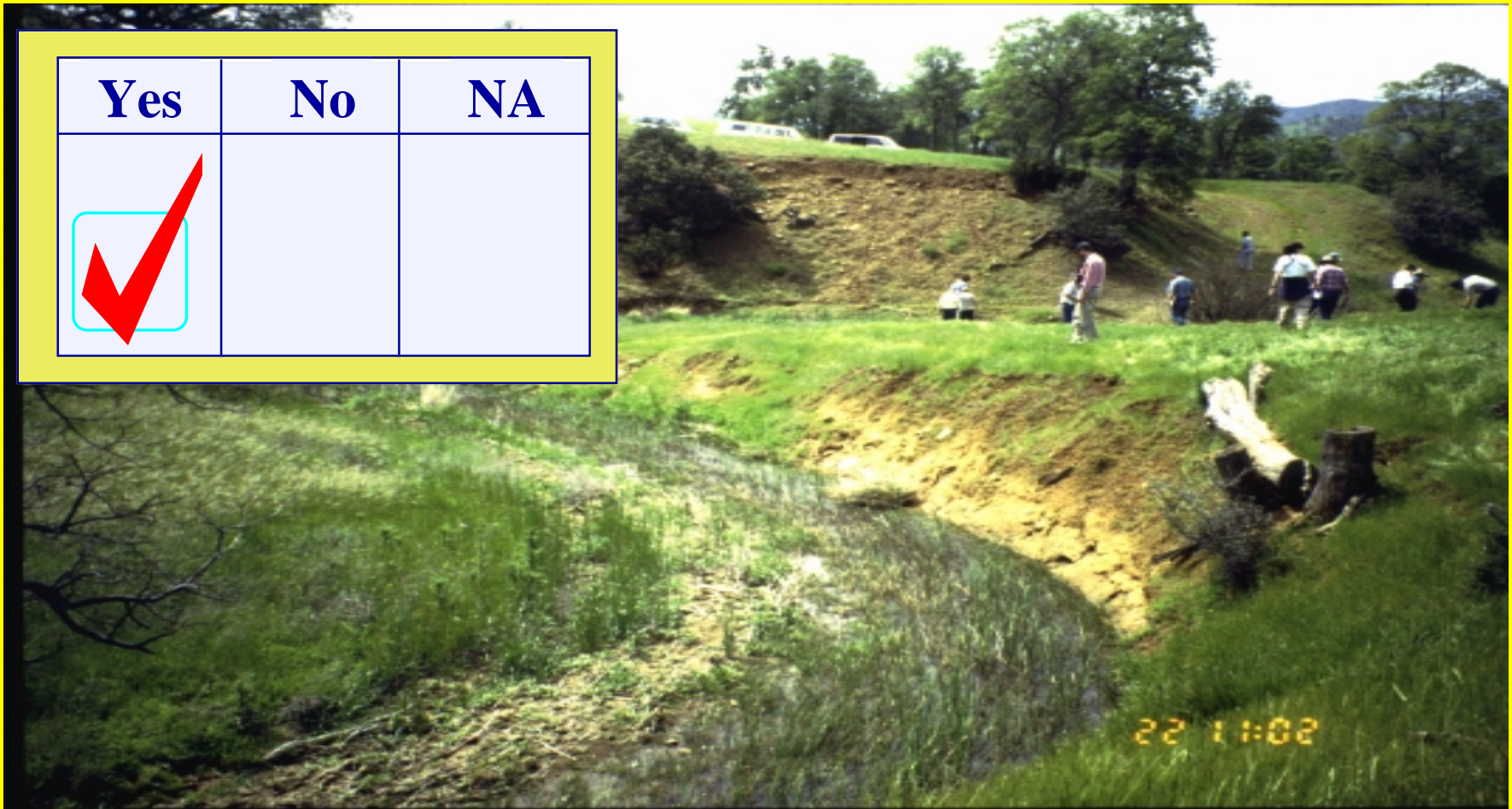
---

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>NA</b>

**4) Riparian-wetland  
area is widening or  
has achieved  
potential extent.**

#### 4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

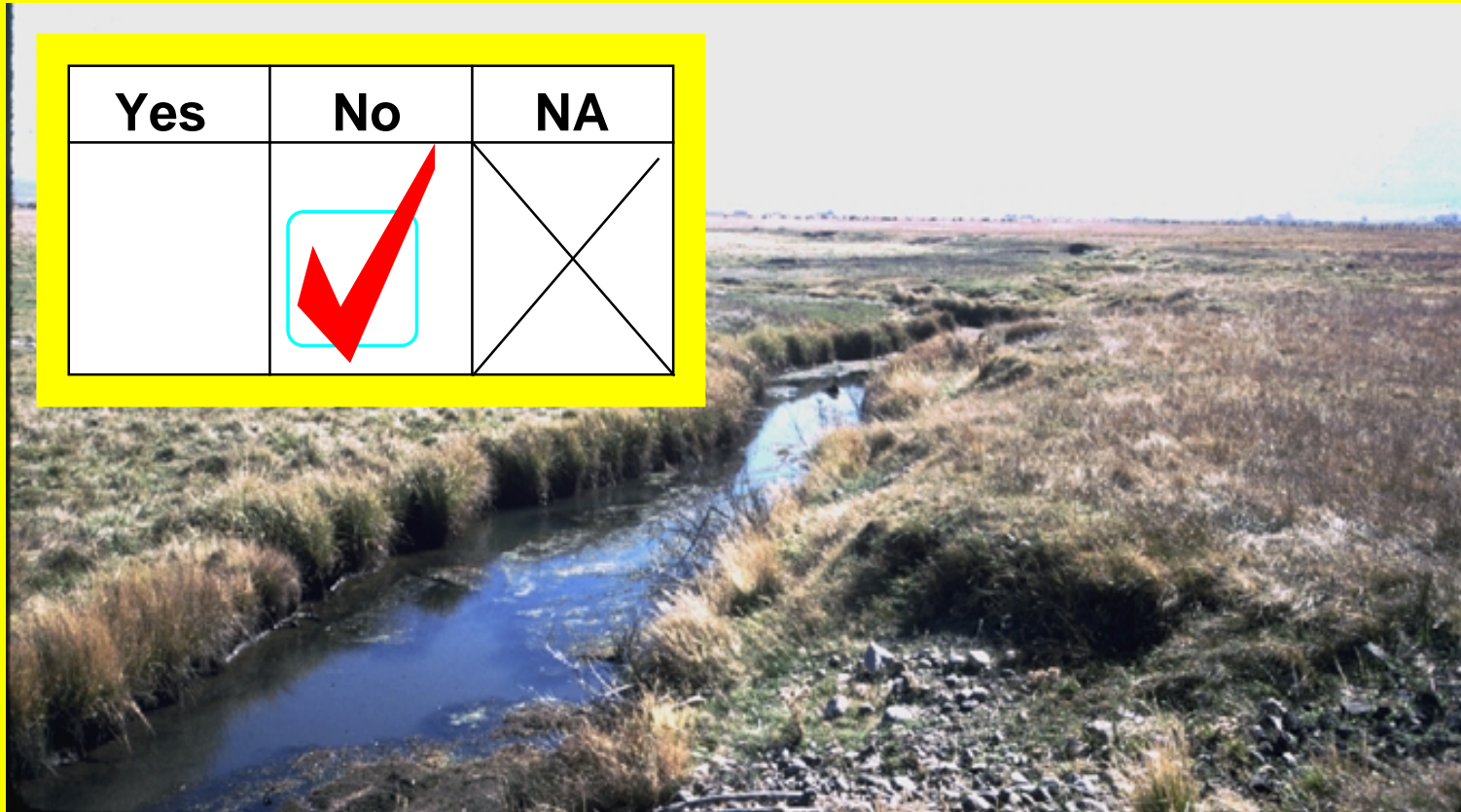


Upper Stony Creek Watershed, Glenn Co.(1998)



#### 4) Riparian-wetland area is widening or has achieved potential extent

Yes	No	NA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



Pasture Near Minden (1989)

# Lotic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors

---

Yes	No	NA

5) Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation



# Watershed Impacts

---

- ◆ Dams and Diversions
- ◆ Historic and/or Active Mining
- ◆ Timber Harvest Activities
- ◆ Roads
- ◆ Grazing
- ◆ Wildfire

# Watershed Impacts

---

## Grazing



# Watershed Impacts

---

## Logging/Roads



# Watershed Impacts

---

## Historic/Active Mining





# Watershed Impacts

---

## Wildfire



Painted Cave Fire (7/90) Santa Barbara Co.

# Watershed Impacts

---

## Dams/Diversions



# Lentic Checklist

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## Hydrologic Factors

# Lentic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors



1. Riparian-wetland area is saturated at or near the surface or inundated in “relatively frequent” events.
2. Fluctuation of water levels is not excessive.
3. Riparian-wetland area is enlarging or has achieved potential extent
4. Upland watershed is not contributing to riparian-wetland degradation.



# Lentic Checklist - Hydrologic Factors



5. Water quality is sufficient to support riparian-wetland plants.
6. Natural surface or subsurface flow patterns are not altered by disturbance (i.e. hoof action, dams, dikes, trails, roads, rills, gullies, drilling activities).
7. Structure accommodates safe passage of flows (e.g. no headcut affecting dam or spillway).

# PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors

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## **6. Diverse Age-Class Distribution (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)**

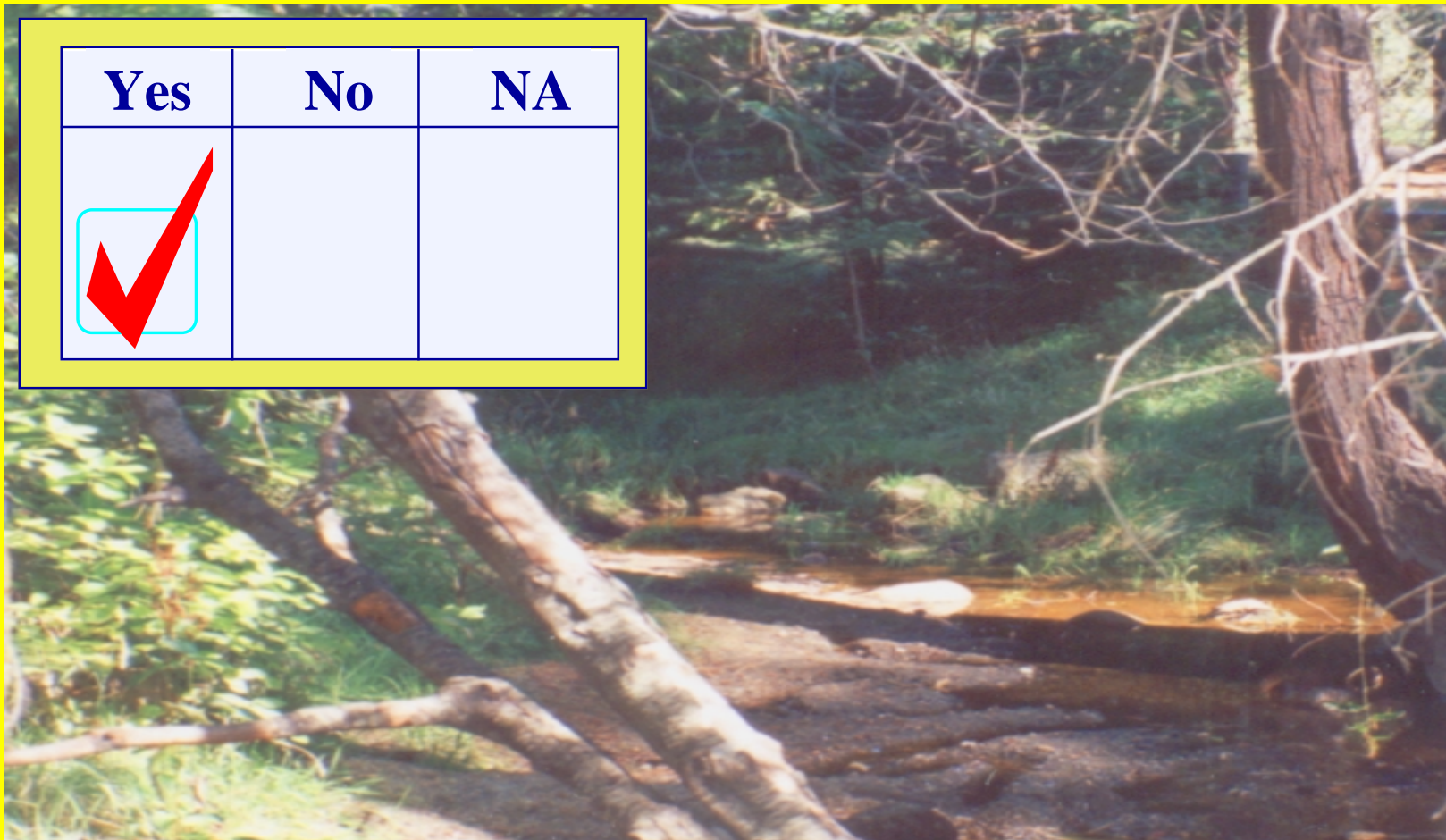
## 6) Diverse Age-class Distribution of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Phoenix Lake Watershed, Tuolumne Co.(1998)

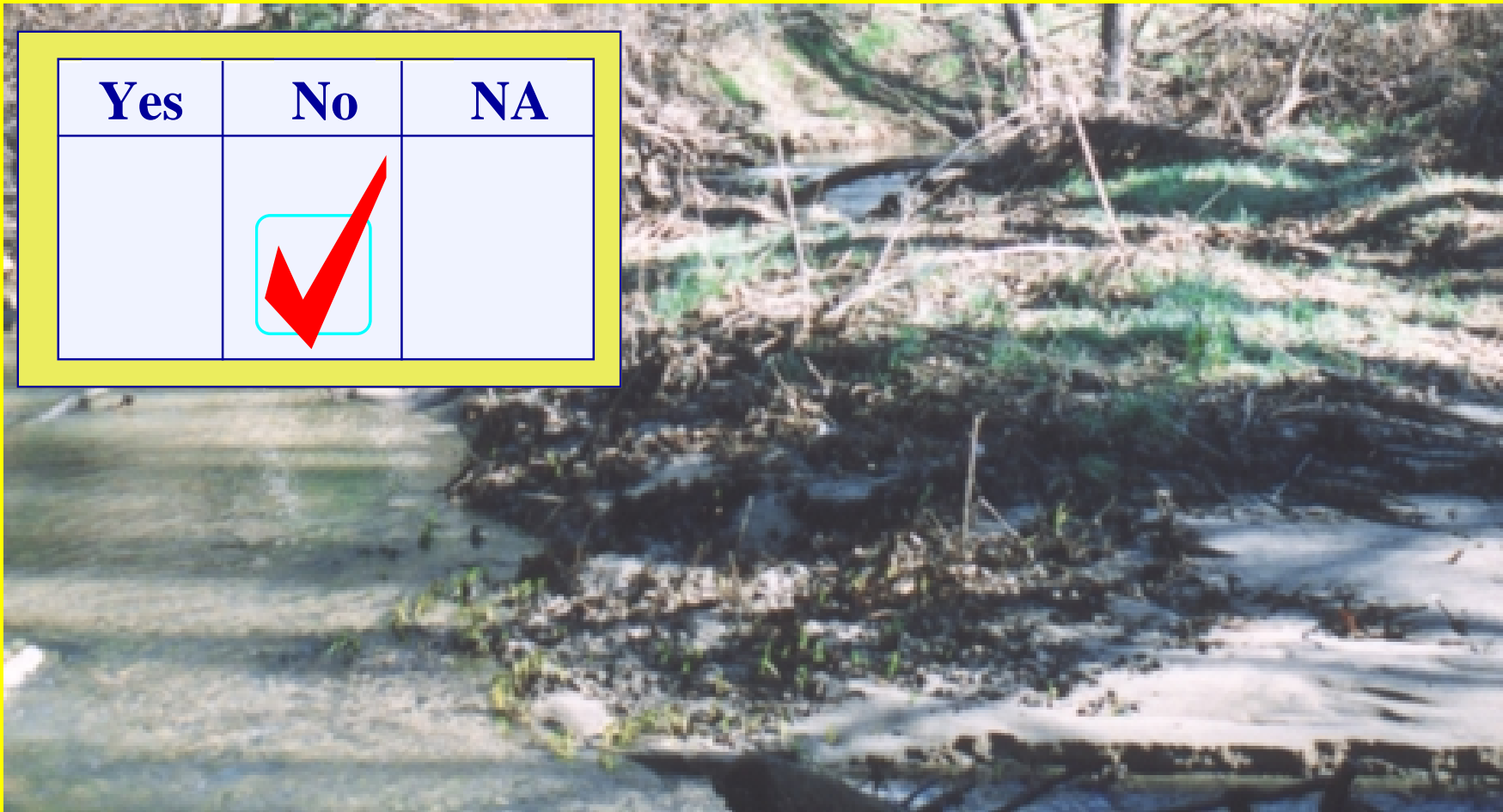
## 6) Diverse Age-class Distribution of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)



## 6) Diverse Age-class Distribution of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (recruitment for maintenance/recovery)



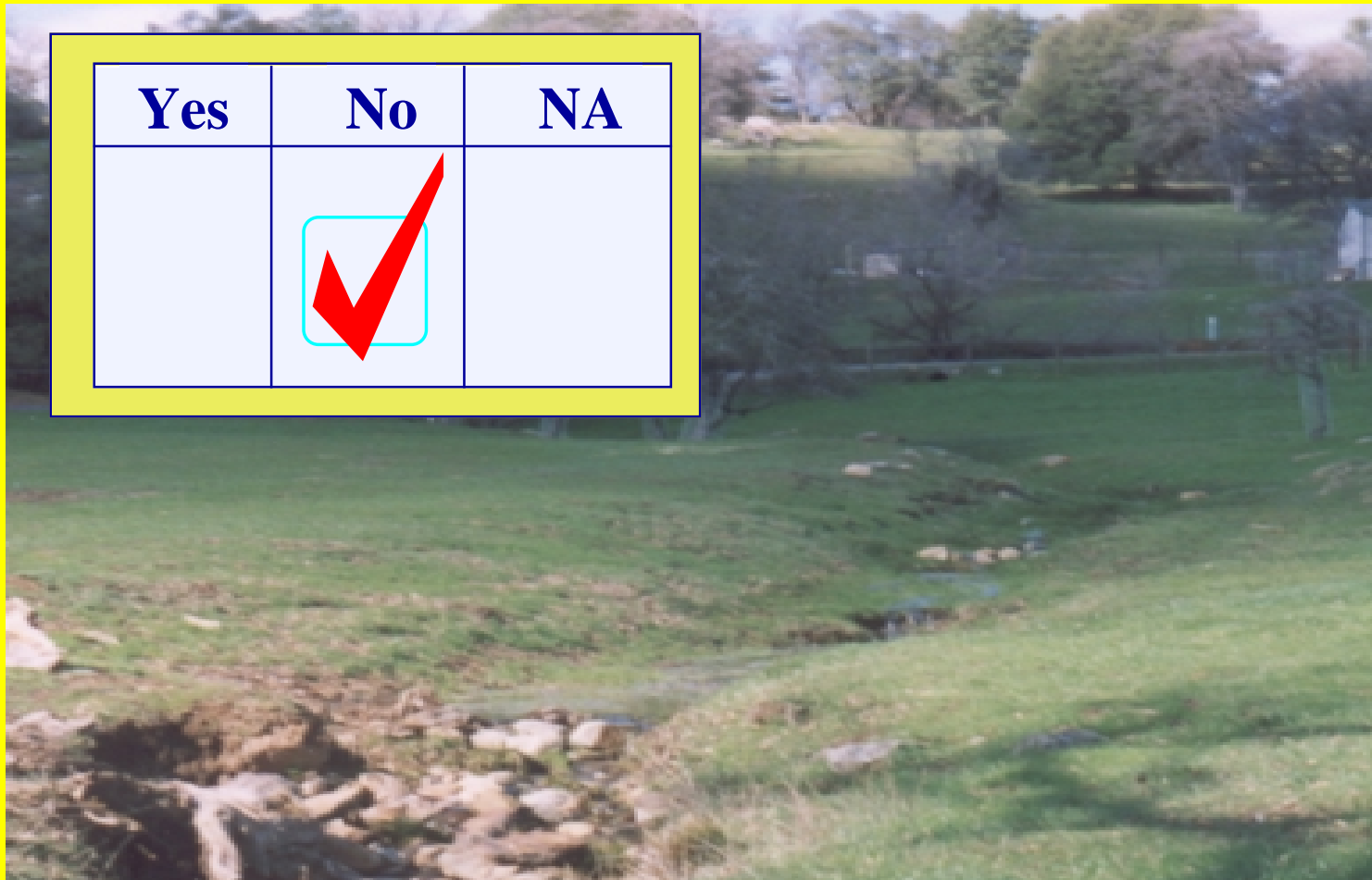
Phoenix Lake Watershed, Tuolumne Co.(1998)

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

## **7. Diverse Composition of Vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)**

## 7) Diverse Composition of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)



Standard Area, Tuolumne Co.(1998)

## 7) Diverse Composition of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)



## 7) Diverse Composition of Riparian-wetland Vegetation (for maintenance/recovery)

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

**8. Species present indicate  
maintenance of riparian-wetland  
soil moisture characteristics**

## 8) Species Present Indicate Maintenance of Riparian-wetland Soil Moisture Characteristics



Near Highway 49, Calaveras Co.(1998)



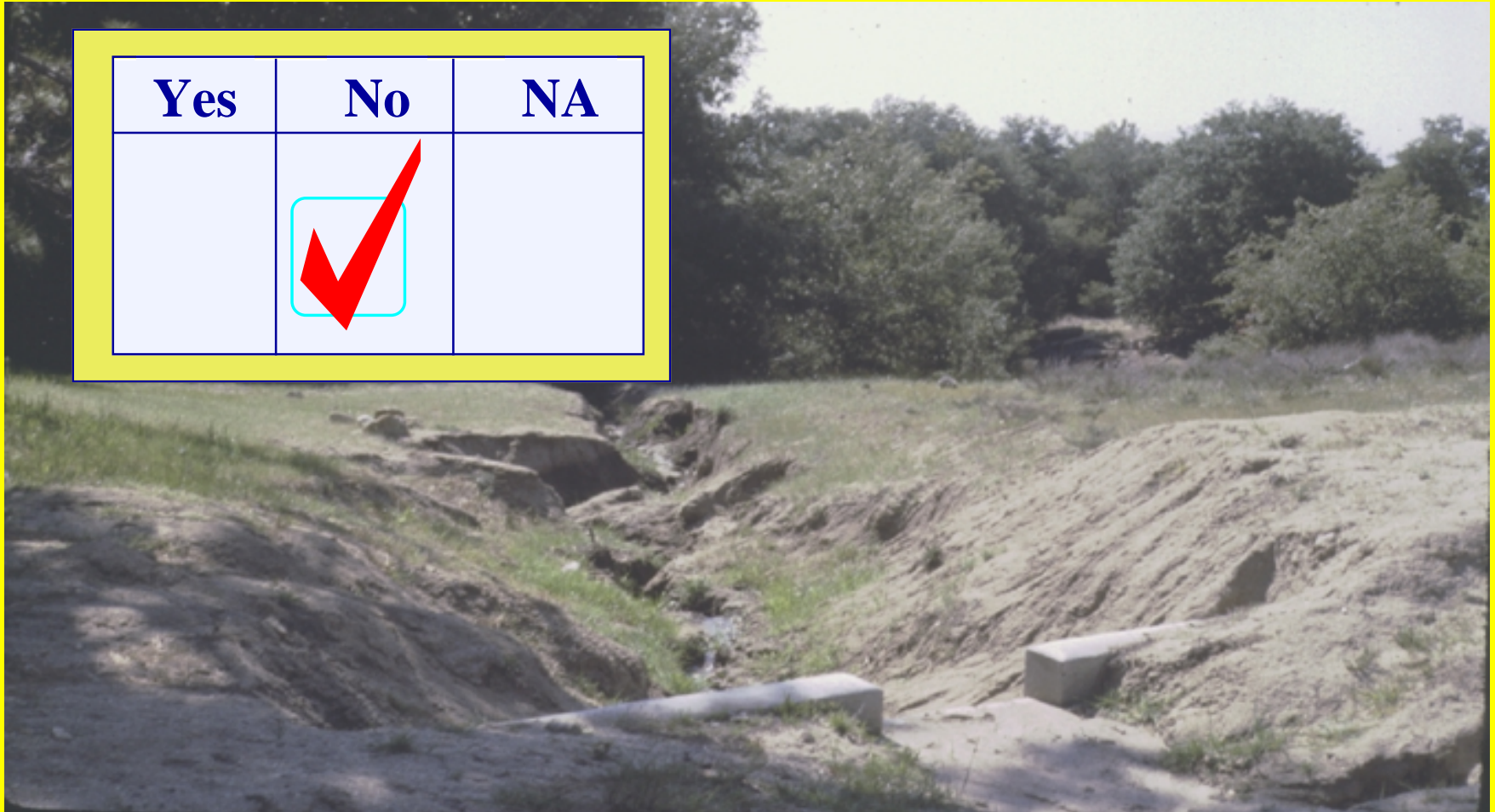
## 8) Species Present Indicate Maintenance of Riparian-wetland Soil Moisture Characteristics



Near Highway 49, Calaveras Co.(1998)

## 8) Species Present Indicate Maintenance of Riparian-wetland Soil Moisture Characteristics

Yes	No	NA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

**9. Streambank Vegetation is  
Comprised of those Plants or Plant  
Communities that have Root Masses  
Capable of Withstanding High  
Streamflow Events**



## 9) Streambank Vegetation is Comprised on those Plants or Plant Communities that have Root Masses Capable of Withstanding High Streamflow Events



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)

## 9) Streambank Vegetation is Comprised on those Plants or Plant Communities that have Root Masses Capable of Withstanding High Streamflow Events

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Stony Cr.  
Watershed,  
Glenn Co (1998)





## 9) Streambank Vegetation is Comprised on those Plants or Plant Communities that have Root Masses Capable of Withstanding High Streamflow Events



Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

## **10. Riparian Plants**

**Exhibit**

**High Vigor**

## 10. Riparian Plants Exhibit High Vigor

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)



## 10. Riparian Plants Exhibit High Vigor



Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

**11. Adequate Vegetative Cover  
is Present to Protect Banks  
and Dissipate Energy  
During High Flows**

## 11. Adequate Vegetative Cover is Present to Protect Banks and Dissipate Energy During High Flows

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

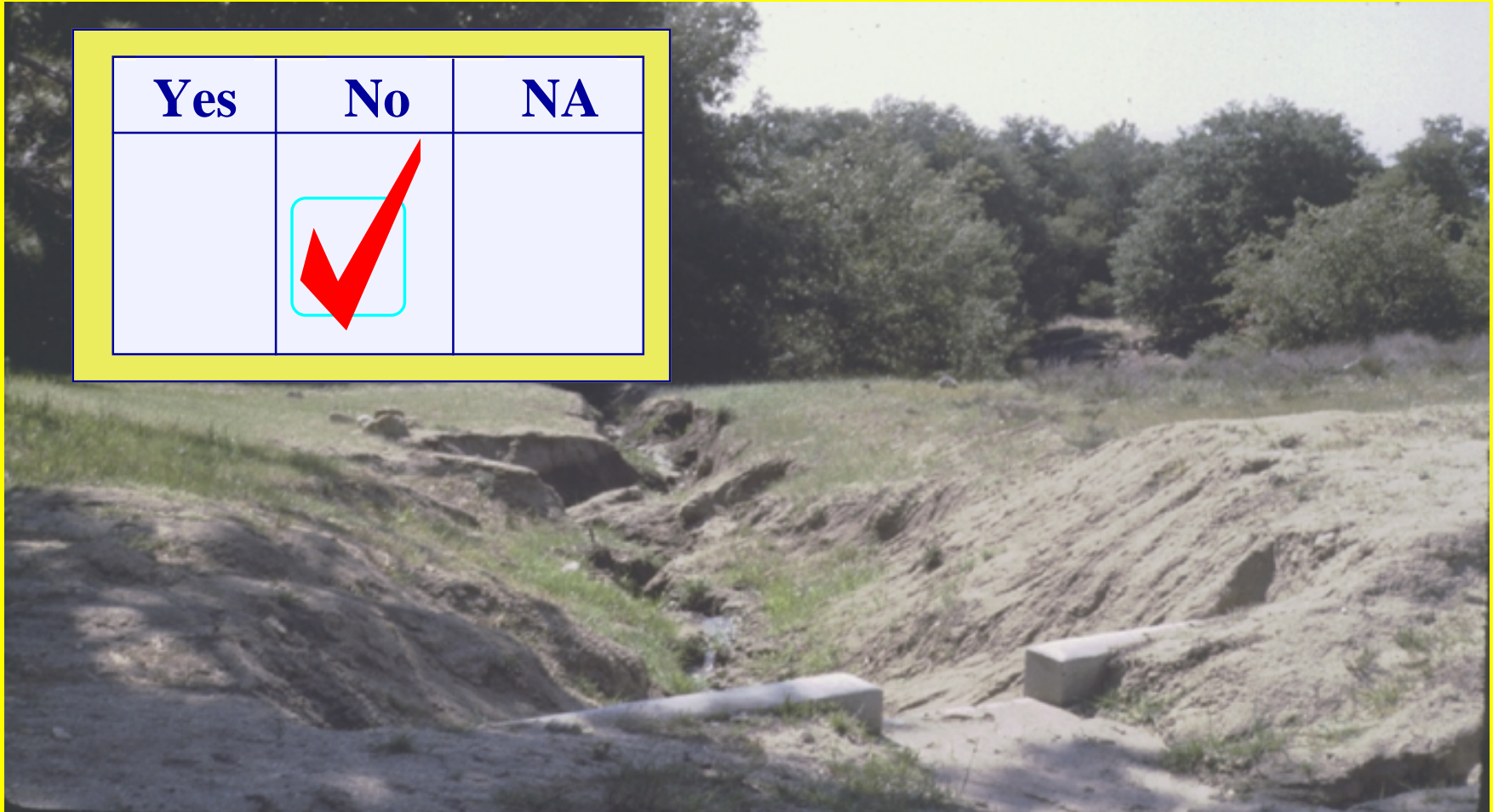


Calaveras Big Trees SP, Calaveras Co.(1998)



## 11) Adequate Vegetative Cover is Present to Protect Banks and Dissipate Energy During High Flows

Yes	No	NA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	



## 11) Adequate Vegetative Cover is Present to Protect Banks and Dissipate Energy During High Flows

Yes	No	NA
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	





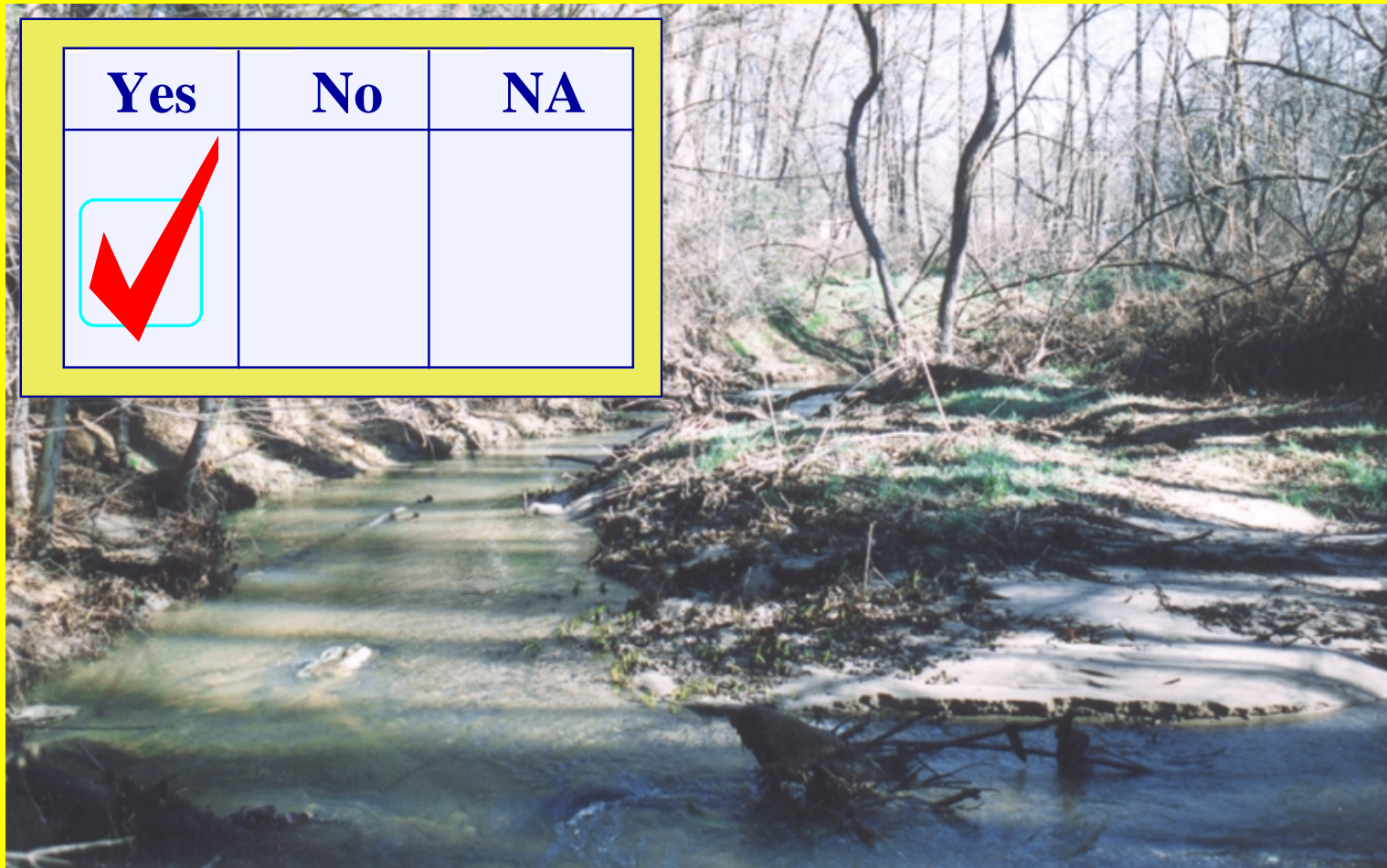
# **PFC Standard Checklist - Vegetative Factors**

---

**12. Plant Communities in the  
Riparian Area are an Adequate  
Source of Coarse and/or  
Large Woody Debris**

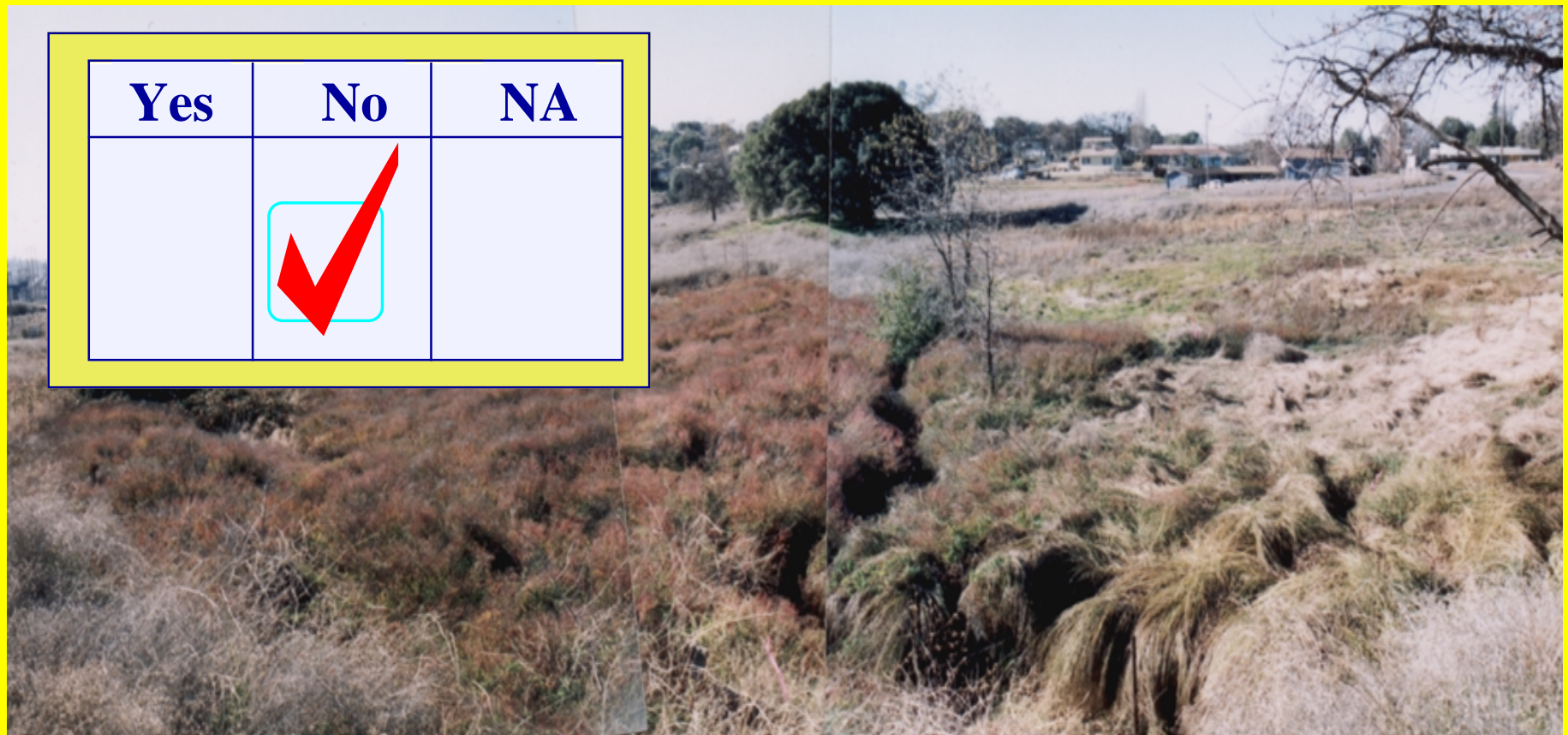
## 12) Plant Communities in the Riparian Area are an Adequate Source of Coarse and/or Large Woody Debris

Yes	No	NA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		



Phoenix Lake Watershed, Tuolumne Co.(1998)

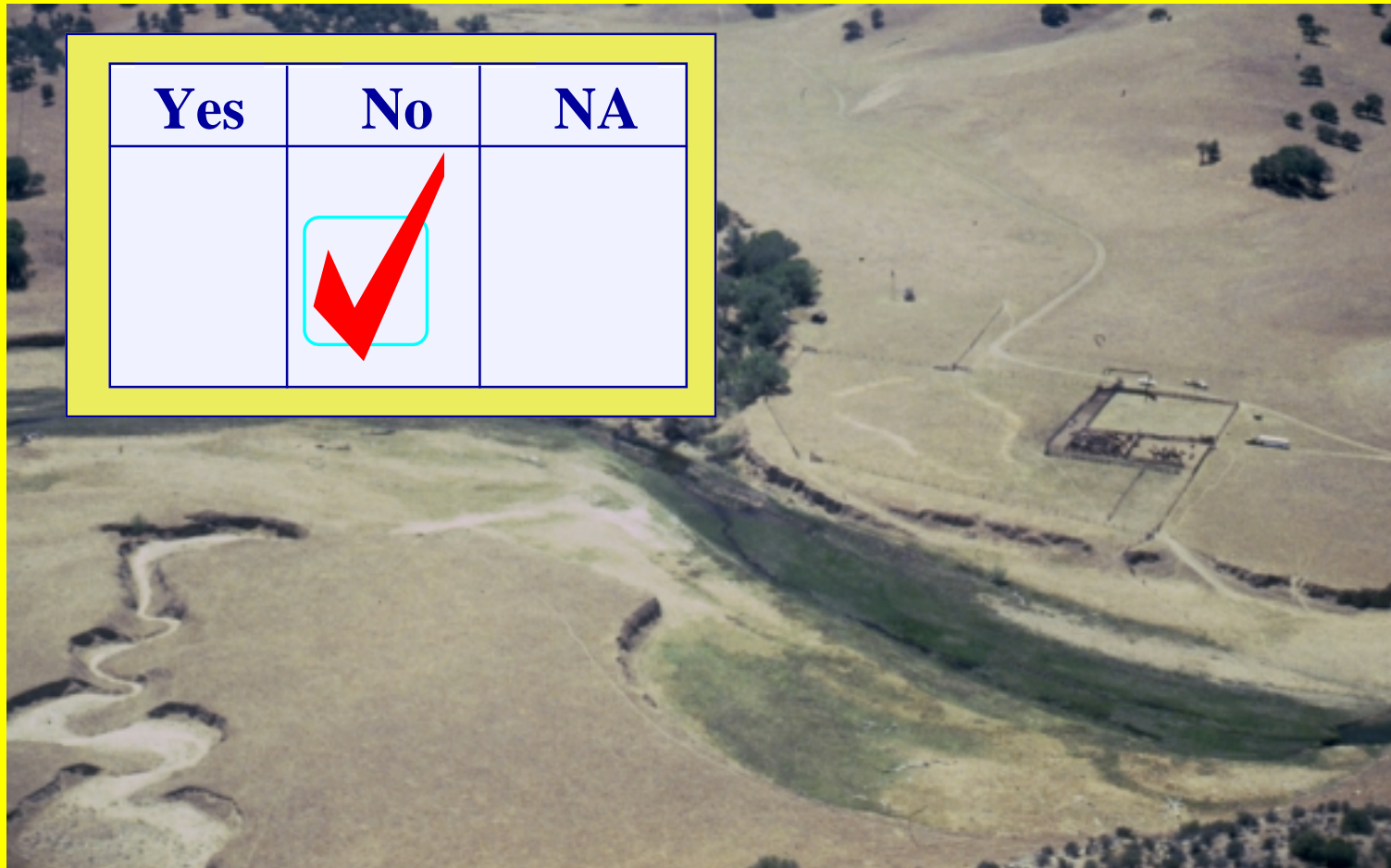
## 12) Plant Communities in the Riparian Area are an Adequate Source of Coarse and/or Large Woody Debris



Standard Road, Tuolumne Co.(1998)



## 12) Plant Communities in the Riparian Area are an Adequate Source of Coarse and/or Large Woody Debris



San Luis Obispo Co.(1998)

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Erosion/Deposition Factors**

---

- 13. Floodplain and Channel  
Characteristics (i.e. rocks,  
overflow channels, coarse  
and/or large woody debris)  
Adequate to Dissipate Energy**

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Erosion/Deposition Factors**

---

**14. Point Bars are Revegetating**

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Erosion/Deposition Factors**

---

**15. Lateral Stream Movement  
is Associated with  
Natural Sinuosity**

# **PFC Standard Checklist - Erosion/Deposition Factors**

---

## **16. System is Vertically Stable**



# **PFC Standard Checklist - Erosion/Deposition Factors**

---

**17. Stream Is In Balance With  
the Water and Sediment  
Being Supplied by the Watershed  
(i.e. no excessive erosion or  
deposition)**

# Summary Determination

---

Functional Rating:

- ☐ Proper Functioning
- ☐ Functional At Risk
- ☐ Nom Functional
- ☐ Unknown

Trend for Functional - At Risk:

- ☐ Upward
- ☐ Downward
- ☐ Not Apparent

Are factors contributing to unacceptable conditions outside the control of the manager?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, what are those factors?

- ☐ Flow regulations
- ☐ Mining activities
- ☐ Upstream channel conditions
- ☐ Channelization
- ☐ Road encroachment
- ☐ Oil field water discharge
- ☐ Augmented flows
- ☐ Other (specify)

---

# PFC - California

## Summary

# Is PFC a potentially useful tool to help manage local resources?

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## The PFC Methodology:

- ◆ Assesses the physical functioning and resilience of a riparian-wetland area;
- ◆ Is a useful tool for watershed analysis;
- ◆ Is a useful tool for prioritizing restoration and monitoring activities;
- ◆ Is a communication tool that provides a common platform for collaborative management planning;

# So what from here?

---

- ◆ The assessment process makes us look at interrelationships of landform/soils, vegetation, and water.
- ◆ It provides information concerning specific attributes that should be addressed
- ◆ Helps define monitoring needs
- ◆ Provides a common platform for collaborative management planning

